'First day of classes went smoothly' PAGE 2
New advocacy group for US territories coming to CNMI. PAGE 3

Hafa Adai!

$1

Saipan Tribune

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Castro

'Sewer system turns into septic tank'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A leaking sewer line near Susupe Mart in Susupe has prompted Rep. Manny Gregory T. Castro (Ind-Saipan) to ask a House of Representatives committee to either

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FERDIE DE LA TORRE
A man points to the area where human waste overflows from a leaking sewer line on the shoulder of Tupak Street corner Chinhulu Avenue near Susupe Mart in Susupe yesterday.

Ada resigns from PSS

Education Commissioner Dr. Alfred B. Ada has submitted his resignation to the Board of Education, citing health reasons for stepping down effective Sept. 1.

The BOE has yet to accept the education chief's letter of intent to resign.

"I am hopeful that I will get better, that my health will improve and that it will not get the best of my desire to continue serving our Public School System. But as of lately, my failing health has affected my ability to take on greater responsibilities. With the support of my wife and children and loved ones, and those who continue to believe in my desire to serve, please

See ADA on Page 4

'TOUCHBACK' COUNTDOWN
Number of days left until the "touchback" rule takes effect on Sept. 30, 2023:
37

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Education Commissioner Dr. Alfred B. Ada has spent over 30 years working for the Public School System, starting as a classroom teacher before being appointed as chief state school superintendent in 2019. Before his decision to step down for health reasons, he makes sure to find time to read to students as part of his regular school visits as seen in this file photo.

'Tinian Harbor rehab could be worth $1B'

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
Kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

King-Hinds

The U.S. Department of Defense's plan to improve the Tinian Harbor and its breakwater—which is expected to start in a couple of years—could be worth well over $1 billion, according to Commonwealth Ports Authority board chair Kimberlyn King-Hinds.

Speaking at the unveiling of the newly renovated Tinian Marina last Friday, King-Hinds said that, based on discussions with DOD, once the project

See TINIAN on Page 4

CPA looks into DFS' request to extend master concession agreement at SIA

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Ports Authority is currently looking into the legalities of giving DFS Saipan Ltd. a short-term extension on its master concession agreement that has allowed it to set up shop inside the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan

See CPA on Page 4

INSIDE

BUSINESS
Spa Ocean in Chalan Kanoa has a new offering called Theranova Body Care from South Korea.
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NATION
Relatives of those missing after the wildfire in Lahaina, Hawaii are urged to give DNA samples.
PAGE 12

LIFE & STYLE
The 98-year-old mother of a Kansas newspaper publisher confronts police officers during a raid.
PAGE 15

SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

GOT A NEWS TIP? TEL: 235-6397 / 235-2440 FAX: 235-3740 EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com

Local

'1st day of classes went smoothly'

The first day of the 2023-2024 school year last Tuesday went smoothly, according to CNMI Public School System Education Commissioner Dr. Alfred Ada yesterday morning.

Brilliant Star School

Global Understanding • Service to Humanity • Exemplary Character • Creative Minds

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Job Opening: Pre-School Teacher

Job Summary: The Employee is employed as a PRE-SCHOOL TEACHER at Brilliant Star School and will perform all duties normally incidental to this position and will use her/his best efforts to maintain and improve the high standards of education at the School.

Education: High School/GED graduate with credit's toward an Associate's Degree or higher from an accredited college or university in education or other related area. Must have attained a Montessori diploma for the level they will teach.

Required Qualifications:
Knowledge of: The Montessori Curriculum and learning techniques; Montessori methodology.

Skill in: Managing students in an orderly and healthy classroom environment. Basic computer skills and the ability to utilize Microsoft software.

Ability to: Supervise and encourage students

To Apply: This job opportunity is for a full-time position. Only US-workers will be considered. All interested US applicants must submit a resume and employment certification showing the required work experience via e-mail at admin@brilliantstar.org. Applicants may also submit their documents personally at the Admin Office of Brilliant Star Montessori School, Fuetsa Loop, Isla Drive, Navy Hill, Saipan MP 96950. You may also call (670)323-7827 for directions.

18TH CNMI STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
EMERGENCY BOARD MEETING
EXECUTIVE SESSION
Friday, August 25, 2023, at 2:00 p.m.
Board of Education Conference Room
Building 1241, Capitol Hill
Saipan, MP 96950

AGENDA[1]

I. **Preliminary**
1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda

II. **Public Comments**[2]

III. **New Business**
1. Commissioner of Education
2. Appointment of Acting or Interim Commissioner of Education

IV. **Executive Session**[3]
1. Legal Updates
2. Personnel
3. Other matters

V. **Adjournment**

[1] **Join Zoom Meeting**
https://zoom.us/j/93089464661?pwd=dkM1WGpwSTZwaldoNU81SElmWU1EQT09
Meeting ID: 930 8946 4661
Passcode: 875145

[2] Pursuant to BOE Policy 0415, public comments are limited to 30 minutes. We ask that remarks be limited to 3 minutes each. Everyone is welcome to submit written comments.

[3] Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Board may vote to meet in executive session at any time.

Citing reports from teachers after the first day of classes, Ada said that many were "very ecstatic about returning to school. It's because of having new students and the new high quality instructional materials that we are implementing this year. So, the teachers are pretty excited about it."

He added that principals reported that "up to the last minute they were making sure that we are ready to open the doors for our students—and for the most part I would say everyone opened with enthusiasm and positive vibes."

To combat the anticipated traffic due to road construction throughout Saipan, PSS implemented a new bell schedule for middle schools, from 8am to 8:30am, and for high schools, from 8:30am to 9am. The elementary schedule still starts at 7:30am.

With the later start time of classes also comes the later end time. Ada said that interscholastic sports competitions would have to start at a later time than usual, but that there will still be sports throughout the school year.

Ada added that they might implement "before-school" programs instead of after-school programs as high school classes end at 3:45pm.

He said they will try to entice students who come to the campus early to begin their school club meetings and other extra-curricular activities in the morning before classes start. With the new class schedules, there would be no time for students to "mess around," he added.

As for the fast-paced advancement of technology and learning in the 21st century, PSS strives to evolve with it, but also ensures that they still teach the basics, which are reading and math.

"We are also changing with the times. A lot of our lessons, our apps, or our daily activities—most of them are toward the digital arena," said Ada. "However, we still have to teach the basics of reading and math. Even if technology is there, the one thing we cannot change is the human connection—the social piece. …My philosophy in education is the social aspect—all means all—everybody is inclusive, everybody learns together, everybody grows together, and that's what K-12 is all about. …Student success and student safety is very important." ***(Leigh Gases)***

New advocacy group for US territories coming to CNMI

Right to Democracy, a new organization focused on advancing democracy and self-determination in U.S. territories, will be coming to the CNMI next week for a meet-and-greet event and a series of community dialogues as part of the Pacific leg of their listening tour.

Right to Democracy co-presidents Adi Martínez-Román and Neil Weare will be looking to engage the local community and share more about their new approach.

The public is invited to attend its CNMI event at the American Memorial Park indoor theater on Wednesday, Aug. 30, from 5pm to 7:30pm.

The visit is part of Right to Democracy's listening tour taking place in each of the territories that will lead up to a national "Summit on U.S. Colonialism" that it is convening at the Ford Foundation in New York City this fall.

"I look forward to being back [on] Saipan to talk about these important issues. The relationship between the Northern Mariana Islands and the United States is an ever-evolving one. It is important to make sure the people in the CNMI—and all territories—have power and agency in the decisions that impact their lives," said Weare, who grew up in Guam and led Equally American prior to co-founding Right to Democracy.

"I am looking forward to learning more about communities in the Northern Mariana

See ADVOCACY on Page 4

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Right to Democracy co-presidents Adi Martínez-Román and Neil Weare.

San Nicolas: Senate's version of resolution for budget attempts to address lack of authority

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Rep. Patrick H. San Nicolas (R-Tinian) said Monday that he voted not to reject the Senate amendments to a House concurrent resolution for the fiscal year 2024 budget because it attempts to address the lack of authority to recognize the administration's $9.1 million projected resources.

San Nicolas said he agrees with the Senate amendments and the rationale behind those amendments.

San Nicolas

At the end of the day, the total amount of resources is the same, said San Nicolas, who, along with Reps. Roy Christopher A. Ada (R-Saipan) and Thomas John D. Manglona (R-Saipan) voted against rejecting the Senate's version of the concurrent resolution during Friday's session. Sixteen House members voted "yes" to reject the Senate version.

"In spite of the disagreements we may have as a body, and between the two houses, I stand ready to work with my colleagues to produce [a fiscal year 2024] budget that is fair and reflects the true needs and priorities of the entire CNMI government," he said.

The Senate's version amended the House concurrent resolution by reducing the total projected revenues for fiscal year 2024 by $9.1 million.

According to the Senate's amendment, Gov. Arnold I. Palacios' total projected resources in the amount of $172.5 million include approximately $9.1 million from a proposal to increase the Business Gross Revenue Tax, which has not been enacted by the Legislature.

Accordingly, the Senate states that the total projected revenues must be reduced by $9.1 million until such time the BGRT increases become law and are collectible.

The Senate amendments also reduced the total earmarks from $57,157,357 to $48,008,048, bringing the total amount of resources available for appropriation to $115,407,265, which is the same amount under the House's version.

Last Aug. 10, it was only San Nicolas among House members who voted against passing the House's fiscal year 2024 budget legislation, Bill 23-66, because he believes that the bill did not fund the 108 full time employees needed by the Tinian Mayor's Office.

Senate, House to hold conference committee meeting on resolution for the FY 2024 budget

The Senate and House of Representatives conferees will hold a joint conference committee meeting today, Thursday, regarding the Senate's amendment to the House concurrent resolution for the government's budget for operations in fiscal year 2024.

Senate conference committee chair Sen. Donald M. Manglona (Ind-Rota) and House conference committee chair Rep. Ralph N. Yumul (Ind-Saipan) set the joint meeting at 11am in the House chamber.

Last Friday, the House rejected the Senate's amendments to the House concurrent resolution that reduced the administration's anticipated revenue in fiscal year 2024 from $172.5 million to $163 million.

The House had already passed a budget bill for fiscal year 2024. The Senate has yet to finish the draft of their version of the budget bill.

Meanwhile, Senate president Edith E. DeLeon Guerrero (D-Saipan) has scheduled a special session for today, Thursday, at 11am.

Part of the agenda is about the confirmation for Vina Claire Saures Ayuyu and Antonio B. Cabrera.

Ayuyu was appointed to serve as a member of the Northern Marianas Housing Corp. board of directors representing Saipan, Northern Islands, and the Carolinian community.

Cabrera was nominated to serve as a member of the Commonwealth Ports Authority board of directors representing Saipan and Northern Islands. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
P. O. Box 501220, Third Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 664-4282 • Fax: (670) 235-5131

Job Vacancy Announcement

JVA No. 23-102 (RE-ANNOUNCEMENT)

Opening Date: Monday, August 21, 2023
Closing Date: Friday, September 1, 2023

POSITION TITLE:	**Trades Technician-Electrician**
DEPARTMENT:	**Rota Power Generation**
LOCATION:	**Rota, Northern Marianas Islands, USA**
ANNUAL SALARY:	**$20,826.00 to $28,115.00 per annum, Non-Exempt**
CONTRACT:	**Not Contracted**
POSITION(S):	**One (1)**

The incumbent will be under the direct supervision of the Power Generation Manager or his/her designee. This class specification represents only the core areas of responsibilities; specific position assignments will vary depending on the needs of the department.

Duties:

- Performs maintenance, operations, installations, troubleshooting and/or repairs of Generator, switchgears and engine control panels of various brands/make/model, Motor Control Center, Transformer, Protection relays and overhead crane.
- Reads and interprets electrical diagrams and codes, USA standards, Japanese standards, European standards, & NEC (National Electrical Code).
- Knowledge in AC/DC system, Single and three phase system, Lighting and outlets, Paging system, Fire alarm & Battery bank.
- Familiar with the usage of various electrical test equipment; Multimeter tester, Insulation resistance tester, Transformer tester, Ground resistance tester, & Hydrometer.
- Familiar with the usage of various electrical tools Crimper, Pipe bender, Hydraulic knock out puncher, Pipe threader, Micrometer, & Vernier caliper.
- Familiar with the usage of various power and pneumatic tools, Portable drill, Grinder, & Impact wrench.
- Operates specialized and heavy equipment. Emergency generator, Forklift, & Overhead crane.
- Attends to Trouble calls after normal working hours.
- Maintains daily reports. Practices SAFETY, Cleans, organizes and maintains work areas.
- Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

Minimum Requirements:
Education: High School Diploma, General Education Diploma, or Adult Basic Education. Graduate from a Vocational/Technical Institution as an Electrician or related field. Must demonstrate having had (A) four (4) years of increasingly responsible experience in a diesel engine power plant and (B) those four (4) years of increasingly responsible experience in performing electrical duties.

Knowledge of: Applicable Federal, Commonwealth and local laws, codes, regulations and/or ordinances; Mechanical and electrical principles, practices and operations of power plant equipment. Customer service principles; Mathematical concepts; Inventory maintenance practices; Taking equipment readings and maintaining reading data; Inspection procedures; Safety procedures and safe work practices; Modern office technology.

Skills in: Performing inspections and analyzing system and equipment data; Interpreting and applying applicable laws, codes, regulations and standard operating procedures; Monitoring plant equipment and making adjustments; Identifying electrical and mechanical issues and recommending or implementing solutions; Initiating requests and trouble calls and providing assistance; Preparing and updating activity logs and status reports; Utilizing a computer and relevant software applications; Utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction. Able to lift and carry heavy objects of 45 pounds and over, climb ladders, reach above the shoulders, stand, sit, crawl and kneel for prolonged periods and perform repeated bending. Recognize color codes, operate cranes and motor vehicles. Occasionally use solvents, de-greasing agents, or other chemical agents, and be assigned to protracted or irregular hours of work; exposed to dust, oil, grease, constant or excessive noise, vibration, and smoke and gas fumes. Work closely with others and/or alone depending on assigned daily activities.

Must be available to work 24/7 rotation shift to include weekends, holidays, and on-call.

Licensing: Valid Driver's License with appropriate class.

All applicants may be tested and all applicants are subject to pre-employment drug test.

How to Apply: Submit a completed CUC Employment Application, resume, and applicable supporting documents to the CUC Human Resources office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan, Monday through Friday 7:30 am – 4:30 pm (Except Legal Holidays). Applicants on the island of Tinian and Rota may submit their documents to their respective CUC Administration office. Application, resume and supporting documents can also be e-mailed to: employment.applications@cucgov.org.

P. O. Box 501220, Third Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 664-4282 • Fax: (670) 235-5131
CUC is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.

LEGAL NOTICE

Cash Payments and Other Benefits Are Available for Eligible Current and Former Owners and Lessees of Certain Toyota Vehicles

A FEDERAL COURT AUTHORIZED THIS NOTICE.

Si desea recibir esta notificación en español, llámenos o visite nuestra página web.

Toyota has agreed to a class action settlement (the "Settlement") to resolve claims that certain Toyota vehicles ("Subject Vehicles") contain a defective airbag control unit. The Settlement provides $78.5 million in cash and credits (the "Settlement Amount") in addition to an Extended New Parts Warranty and other benefits.

WHAT IS THIS LAWSUIT ABOUT?
Plaintiffs allege that the Subject Vehicles contain a defective airbag control unit that can result in a problem with the passenger safety system, including failure of the airbags to work properly during a collision. Toyota denies the allegations brought against it in the lawsuit but has agreed to the Settlement to resolve the case. The Court has not decided who is right.

WHO IS INCLUDED IN THE SETTLEMENT?
You may be included in the Settlement if you currently own, lease, or previously owned or leased a Subject Vehicle. Certain Subject Vehicles were recalled by Toyota on January 17, 2020, to address issues with the airbag control unit (NHTSA Recall No. 20V-024, the "Recall"). If you have not completed the Recall, it remains available. Other Subject Vehicles that are not part of the Recall are still included for benefits in the Settlement. Please visit **www.AirbagControlUnitSettlement.com** or call **1-833-747-5737** for a complete list of the included Subject Vehicles.

WHAT ARE THE SETTLEMENT BENEFITS?
The proposed Settlement provides the following benefits:

(1) reimbursement for certain out-of-pocket expenses related to the Recall; (2) potential payment of up to $250 per Class Member from funds remaining after all eligible out-of-pocket expenses and other settlement costs have been paid; (3) an extended warranty for Subject Vehicles that complete the Recall; (4) a robust vehicle inspection program; (5) an outreach program for Subject Vehicles that are part of the Recall; and (6) a potential rental car reimbursement, loaner vehicle, and outreach program if there is a future airbag control unit recall for Subject Vehicles that are not currently part of the Recall.

WHAT ARE MY OPTIONS?
File A Claim: If you incurred out-of-pocket expenses to complete the Recall for your Subject Vehicle, you may submit a claim for reimbursement at **www.AirbagControlUnitSettlement.com**. The deadline to submit your reimbursement claim has yet to be determined but will be no earlier than **December 16, 2026**.

Register For Potential Payment Of Up To $250 Per Class Member: You may register for a "residual distribution payment" of up to $250 from any unpaid funds that remain in the Settlement after all eligible out-of-pocket reimbursement and settlement cost payments have been made. The amount of the residual distribution payment will be determined after all the eligible reimbursement claims are paid. The deadline to submit your residual distribution claim has yet to be determined but will be no earlier than **December 16, 2026.**

Complete The Recall And Receive The Extended New Parts Warranty: If approved, the Settlement provides an Extended New Parts Warranty for Subject Vehicles that complete or have completed the Recall. If your Subject Vehicle was not recalled, this is not applicable.

Object: You may write to the Court to explain why you do not like the Settlement. If you object to the Settlement you will remain a member of the Class (if you are otherwise eligible) and you will still release the claims covered by this Settlement. **Deadline to object is October 20, 2023**.

Exclude: If you wish to exclude yourself from the Settlement and not receive settlement benefits, you must submit a request to exclude yourself from, or "opt out" of, the Settlement. If you do so, you will preserve your rights to sue Toyota. **Deadline to request exclusion is October 20, 2023.**

Go To The Fairness Hearing: The Court will hold a hearing on **November 16, 2023, at 11:00 a.m.**, to consider whether to grant final approval to the Settlement, including attorneys' fees and expenses up to 33% (*i.e.* up to $25,905,000) of the Settlement Amount, and class representative awards of up to $2,500, to be paid from the Settlement Fund. The hearing date may change, so please check the Settlement website regularly for updates. You do not need to attend, but are welcome to at your own expense.

Do Nothing: If you are a member of the Class and do nothing, you will not receive the benefits provided under the Settlement, and you will give up the right to sue Toyota about the issues in the lawsuit.

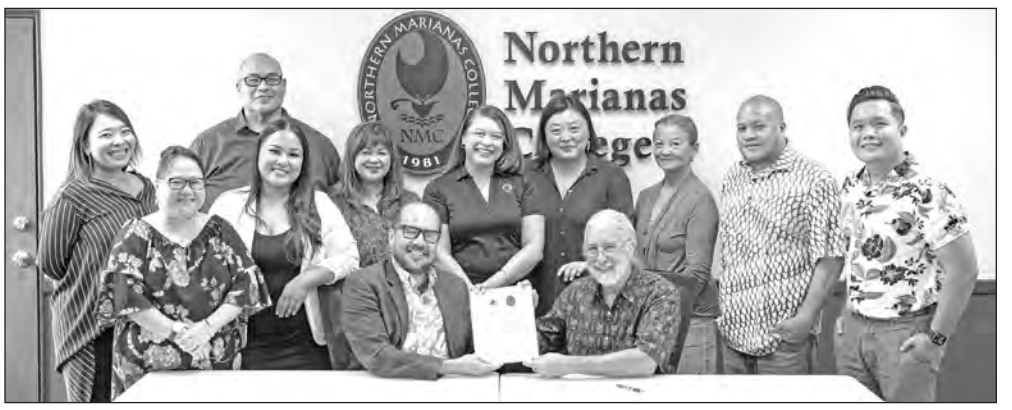
For more information, call **1-833-747-5737** or visit **www.AirbagControlUnitSettlement.com**.

1-833-747-5737
www.AirbagControlUnitSettlement.com

NMC, 500 Sails ink agreement to bolster cultural maritime training

As part of the ongoing efforts to intertwine the development of the local workforce with the preservation of the Commonwealth's cultural heritage, the Northern Marianas College's Community Development Institute is collaborating with 500 Sails to offer multiple opportunities for cultural maritime education.

Under the agreement, the college and 500 Sails will offer maritime education programs such as basic seamanship training, traditional canoe fabrication and repair, and traditional sailing and voyaging.



NMC

Northern Marianas College president Dr. Galvin Deleon Guerrero, 500 Sails acting executive director Peter Perez and other NMC and 500 Sails officials show off the new partnership between NMC and 500 Sails.

"This partnership with 500 Sails reflects our new mission of stewardship through scholarship and our collective commitment to preserving our unique cultural heritage while providing opportunities for our community members to excel in the maritime sector," said NMC president Dr. Galvin Deleon Guerrero. "With the Proa being our mascot, it is only fitting that this collaboration is official with 500 Sails, our stewards of our maritime traditions and navigational heritage."

The cultural maritime training program aims to re-establish a strong maritime community in the CNMI by providing professional training tracks that lead to careers on and in the water—professions that are a natural fit for islanders.

"At 500 Sails, we are dedicated to safeguarding and celebrating the seafaring traditions of the Marianas," said 500 Sails acting executive director Peter Perez. "Through this partnership with NMC, we are confident in our ability to inspire and educate the next generation of maritime enthusiasts."

Individuals who are interested in enrolling in the program are asked to contact the NMC Community Development Institute at cdi@marianas.edu or (670) 237-6802. ***(NMC)***

SEWER

From page 1

subpoena officials of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. or have them explain what they plan to do with the problem.

Speaking at a House Public Utilities, Transportation, and Communications Committee meeting yesterday, Castro said the Saipan delegation's PUTC recently gave CUC an opportunity to address some of the issues or inform the public and the committee about the sewer issue in Precinct 2.

He said his staff informed him that they got communication from CUC's acting executive director Betty G. Terlaje that they weren't able to make it at the Saipan delegation meeting.

"This issue is really bad within our precinct. No one should be seeing a sewage leak in front of their property and there are multiple residents that are experiencing that, especially in the Susupe area," Castro said.

Saipan Tribune checked the area yesterday afternoon and found that the leaking sewer line is located on Tupak Street corner Chinchulu Avenue near Susupe Mart.

A resident in the area said the sewer has been leaking for about two to three months now. He said the smell is especially unbearable if the wind is blowing in the direction of their house.

The resident said human waste would overflow to the street almost daily.

Castro said residents in the area can't even cut the grass beside the road because the sewer is just toxic.

He said people's wastes are seen floating over the residents' driveway and then it's going into the storm drain across the Susupe Mart.

Castro said even some residents who live on the second or third floor could smell the stench blowing into their residences.

"It needs to be addressed," he said.

Castro said no one should be experiencing what the Precinct 2 residents are experiencing right now.

"Susupe is just one aspect but…if you drive through there, you'll see the roads are all messed up," he said.

Castro said the area turns into basically a centralized septic tank instead of a centralized sewer system.

"So hopefully they can come in and address that. I'm asking if you can require them to come in and explain themselves," Castro told House PUTC chair Rep. Vincent S. Aldan (Ind-Saipan).

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

CPA

From page 1

International Airport for over 40 years.

A DFS representative went before the CPA board during a recent meeting to discuss the possibility of an arrangement that would allow them to retain the master concession at the airport for at least five more years.

In an interview with CPA chair Kimberlyn King-Hinds, she explained that DFS has held the master concession at the Saipan airport for the last 40 years, but their agreement already expired in 2018. To date, they remain the master concession on a month-to-month basis.

"They can't [continue] to make an investment if they're just operating on a month-to-month. If they continued a month-to-month [arrangement], it doesn't guarantee that they will hold the master concession for the next five years. It only guarantees they'll have it for a month. Now, what they're asking for is a short-term arrangement that gives them stability for the next five years. What they're saying is they want five years to be able to have depreciation on their investment, which will give us some time to put together a good [request-for-proposals for a new master concessionaire]. That's what we're trying to provide them," she said

King-Hinds said that, although CPA would like to provide this type of certainty for DFS, which has been a long-time investor in the CNMI, CPA has to look into the laws that govern the master concession agreement before the board can even discuss any extension.

"There are certain rules and regulations as it relates to concession and what we're doing right now is the legal research to ensure that we remain in compliance with the law. This is the first time the idea was ever brought up," she said.

CPA has yet to issue an official request for proposals following the expiration of DFS' master concession agreement and it's looking as though CPA will take a while before issuing one, given the state of the CNMI economy.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

TINIAN

From page 1

starts, which is expected to be sometime around fiscal years 2025 or 2026, that will result in repairs could be worth upwards of $1 billion invested into the improvement of Tinian.

"CPA has committed to the island of Tinian that we were going to aggressively seek funding to fund the Tinian Harbor repair and the Tinian breakwater repairs. Fixing the Tinian breakwater has been a goal of every elected official here on Tinan past and present. But today, I proudly say that that goal that we all set over a year ago is within reach. A little over a month ago, CPA took action to formalize its intent to partner with the Department of Defense to collaborate on making such improvements, estimated at this point to be well over $500 million. By the time that's said and done, the completion of this project, improving that seawall and improving the harbor will likely be in the tune of $1 billion," she said.

As of last week, the project is in its preliminary stages, King-Hinds said, with the assessment of the impact the improvements may have on Tinian's marine life.

"As we speak, the preliminary environmental work is being undertaken to begin assessing the impact of that improvement to the marine ecosystem. There are planners in the Pentagon who are working on finding money and, based on our meetings, we anticipate that the Department of Defense will formally request Congress to fund this project in the National Defense Authorization Act for FY 2025 or FY 2026," King-Hinds said.

Aside from improving the Tinian Harbor and the Tinian breakwater, King-Hinds said she also intends to ask DOD to fund the construction of typhoon-proof boat sheds that will be used by small boaters during typhoon season.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

ADA

From page 1

support my decision to prioritize my health," Ada said in a statement yesterday.

Right now, he said, it is the recommendation of his primary care physician that he step away from work and submit to complete rest to be able to fully recover.

"Once I fully recover, I will return to serve this community in whatever capacity I am asked of," he added.

Ada was appointed in December 2019 after a rigorous hiring process to fill the vacancy left by Glenn Muña, who resigned after barely two years as education commissioner. Muña left "for personal reasons."

For the first time, Ada publicly disclosed that he underwent a quadruple heart bypass in September 2021, just over a year after his hiring.

Lately, he has been vocal about his deteriorating health. He has been working against the advice of his physician to take a needed rest to fully recover from his surgery. He was advised to take a leave of absence for one year following his surgery. But two months after his open-heart surgery, Ada returned to work.

Ada has spent over 30 years within the Public School System as a classroom teacher at San Vicente Elementary School, vice principal at William S. Reyes Elementary School, principal of Kagman High School, literacy coach, and eventually Public School System education commissioner.

Ada is credited for providing stability within PSS: Dr. Rita A. Sablan's retirement in 2016, Cynthia Deleon Guerrero's firing in 2017, and Muña's retirement in 2019.

He took over when PSS was still reeling from the challenges brought by supertyphoons Yutu and Soudelor, and the COVID-19 pandemic.

Ada paid tribute to his team and the community for their continued support in the success of the school district. ***(PR)***

ADVOCACY

From page 3

Islands and how they have developed under the current political relationship with the United States, and even draw parallels to our own experience in Puerto Rico," said Martínez Román, who led the Resiliency Law Center and FURIA, Inc., two community-based organizations in Puerto Rico, prior to co-founding Right to Democracy.

Right to Democracy is building a movement to advance democracy and self-determination in U.S. territories. Its vision is that people in U.S. territories should have power and agency over the decisions that impact their lives—there should be no colonies or second-class citizens in the United States. Right to Democracy does not take a position on political status, other than to reject the colonial status quo.

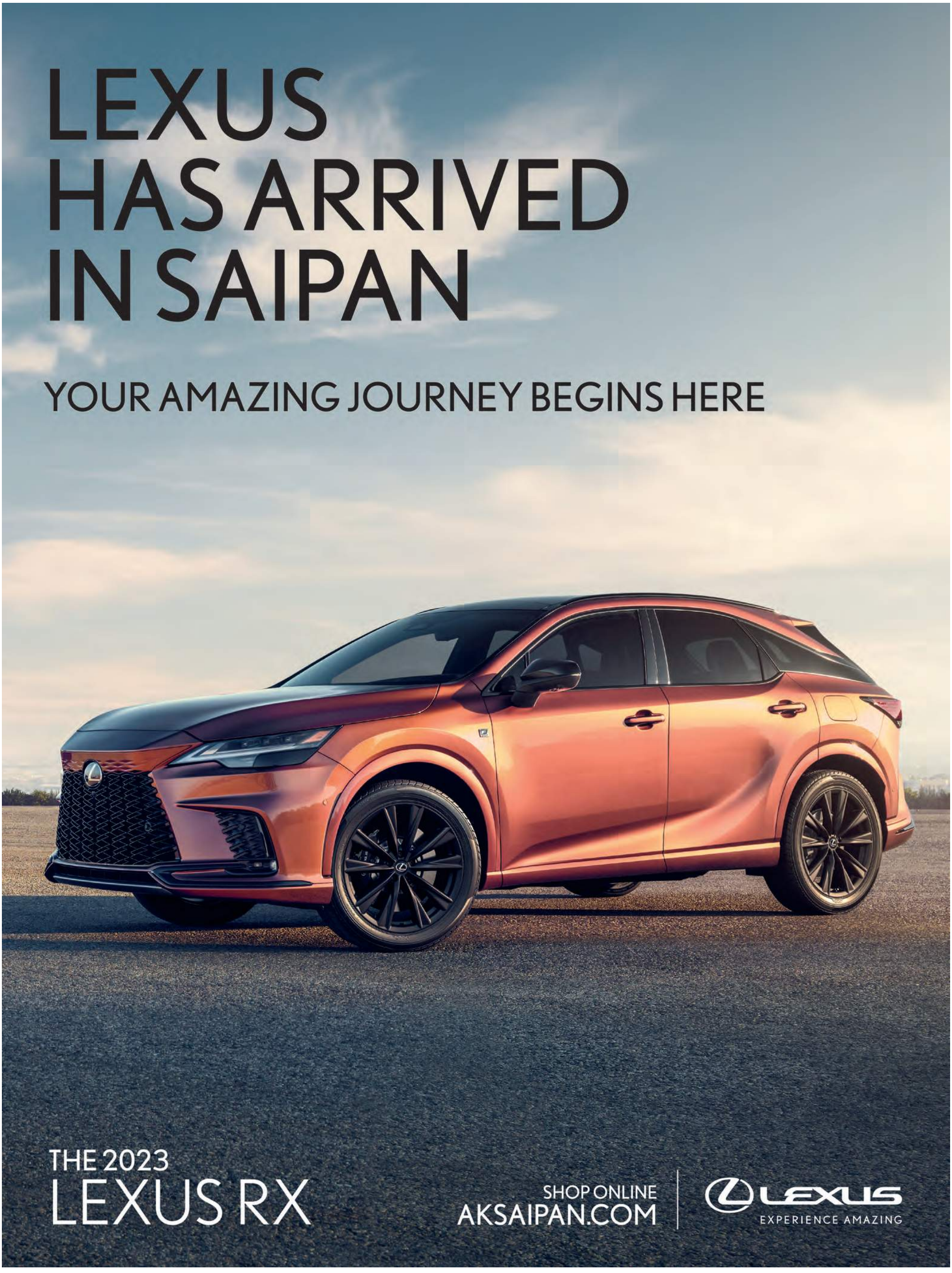
Right to Democracy's event on Aug. 30 at the American Memorial Park indoor theater is free and open to the public and will feature a conversation and question-and-answer with Martínez-Román and Weare hosted by former lawmaker Sheila Babauta, who serves on the advisory board of Right to Democracy. Right to Democracy will also be holding a series of community dialogues and other meetings as well.

"It is important for each of the territories to learn from each other's experiences, so I am excited to be engaging our community in conversation with Adi and Neil. These are complex and sometimes difficult issues to talk about, but they are necessary issues to talk about," said Babauta, who served as a member of the Northern Mariana Islands House of Representatives and leads a number of community organizations focused on environmental issues.

The CNMI visit is part of Right to Democracy's Pacific tour, and follows its Caribbean tour earlier this summer. Right to Democracy's engagement on the ground in each territory this summer is building toward a national "Summit on U.S. Colonialism" at the Ford Foundation that will bring together leaders from each of the territories and the diaspora alongside national advocacy organizations and leaders in philanthropy.

"The goal of the summit is to engage philanthropy in building an ecosystem of organizations from all U.S. territories, their diasporas, and U.S. social justice and advocacy organizations to advance democracy and self-determination for U.S. territories," said Martínez-Román.

For more information, visit righttodemocracy.us or email info@righttodemocracy.us. ***(PR)***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UOG Press mourns passing of author Chris Perez Howard

The University of Guam Press is saddened by the passing of celebrated CHamoru author Chris Perez Howard.

"Our darlin' will be missed," says Joey San Agustin, Perez Howard's first cousin who remembers with fondness how the late author called those he loved "darlin'."

Perez Howard passed away earlier this week in the Philippines. He was 82.

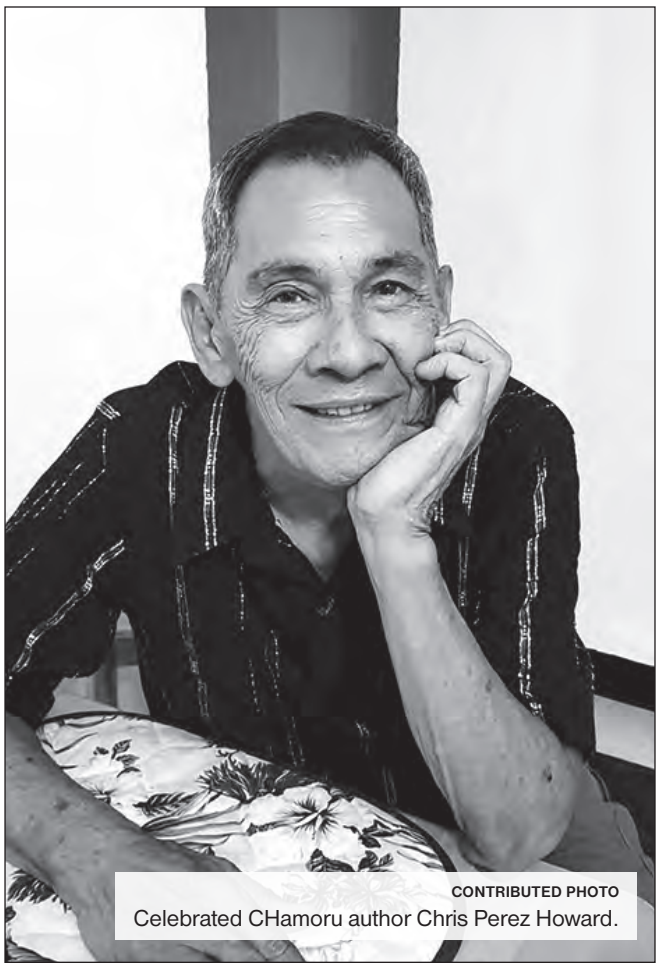
Alongside Perez Howard's family and close friends, UOG Press honors the author's legacy and contributions to both the literary and island community. Perez Howard published two books with the UOG Press—*Mariquita—Revisited* and his latest title, *Juanit.*

"Mr. Perez Howard and his writing inspired many of us to use our skills as writers and artists to tell our people's story in a way that would provoke critical conversations and inspire greater visions for a more just future," shared UOG Press director of Publishing Victoria-Lola Leon Guerrero, who worked closely with Perez Howard as an editor of both *Mariquita—Revisited* and *Juanit.* "I will always cherish the time and friendship I shared with Mr. Perez Howard and the many deep dives we took into our island's history and political issues. It was an honor to work with him and he will be sorely missed."

Perez Howard was a founding member of the Organization of People for Indigenous Rights. The organization addressed issues of self-determination, war reparations, land rights, and historical preservation; and spoke out against nuclear warfare, an issue that persists to this day.

"Chris Perez Howard has left a legacy as an acclaimed CHamoru author and community advocate," UOG president Anita Borja Enriquez said. "His works and passion for our island and its history will be remembered for generations."

UOG president emeritus Robert Underwood, a close friend of Perez Howard, said, "Chris was a leader in the struggle for CHamoru self-determination, an insightful writer, and a relentless advocate for fairness in all aspects of our existence."



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Celebrated CHamoru author Chris Perez Howard.

Perez Howard's advocacy is heavily present in his writing. Through his work, he showed how mediums such as storytelling and painting can be used to promote literacy, build connections, understand oneself, and preserve culture.

"I didn't start out as a writer," Perez Howard said in an interview that aired during the launch of *Juanit* in July. "I was a painter. When I came back to Guam, especially when I started getting this information about Guam history in the writing of *Mariquita,* I had a lot to say, and painting wasn't the way I could reach the largest audience. So, I think out of frustration, I turned to writing to say it."

The celebrated author credits his advocacy to his mother, Mariquita Perez Howard, whom he honors in *Mariquita—Revisited.* The novel, originally published in 1982, chronicles his mother's enduring strength during the Japanese occupation of Guåhan and urges readers to remember the sacrifices of those who lived during the tragedies of the war and its lasting impacts.

It was Perez Howard's fervent hope that his stories would inspire readers to honor the memory of those who came before them, and to love all the aspects of their own identities that make them who they are.

A memorial service celebrating Perez Howard and his impactful work will take place in September. Details for the service will be forthcoming from UOG Press on all media platforms, including Instagram, Twitter, and Facebook at @uogpress. ***(UOG)***

DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB23-OGM/ RT-42300089

SUBMISSION DATE: SEPTEMBER 8, 2023
TIME: 9:30 A.M.

"AS MATMOS PARK CONSTRUCTION PROJECT, ROTA"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED ON THE MUNIS VENDOR SELF SERVICE PORTAL (https://selfservice.dof.gov.mp/vss/) OR AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT BLDG NO. 12552, ANATAHAN DRIVE, CAPTIOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS ITB CAN BE MADE TO THE OF OFFICE GRANTS MANAGEMENT & STATE CLEARINGHOUSE BY AUGUST 29, 2023 TO MR. EPIPHANIO E. CABRERA, JR. VIA EMAIL AT epi.cabrera@gov.mp

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ EPIPHANIO E. CABRERA, JR.
ADMINISTRATOR, OGM

/S/ GERALDINE T. CRUZ
ACTING DIRECTOR, PS

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality
Division of Coastal Resources Management
P.O. Box 501304, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 664-8300; Fax: (670) 664-8315
www.dcrm.gov.mp

Eli D. Cabrera
Administrator

Richard V. Salas
Director, DCRM

NOTICE OF DCRM PUBLIC HEARING
CNMI UNITED INVESTMENT CORPORATION, LTD.
CONSTRUCTION OF RETAINING WALL & SHORELINE REVETMENT PROJECT

The Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM) will be holding a public hearing for the following project:

CRM Major Siting Application No. SMS-2023-085 – The CNMI United Investment Corporation, Ltd. is proposing to construct two retaining walls and sheet pile on Lot No. 013 D 38 in Garapan, Saipan.

The public hearing for this project is scheduled on **Tuesday, September 12, 2023, at 5:00PM, at the DCRM Learning Center 3rd Floor, Suite 301, Gualo Rai Center, Middle Road, Lower Gualo Rai, Saipan.**

Virtual public participation is available via video conferencing through Zoom link: https://zoom.us/j (Meeting ID: 6706648315). Our Zoom meeting access code may change, please call the DCRM Permitting Office at (670) 664-8300 for connection assistance at least one-day prior to the public hearing date.

If you are unable to attend virtually or in-person, written comments can be submitted to the DCRM Permitting Office, Suite 305, Gualo Rai Center, Middle Road, Gualo Rai, Saipan, or mailed to the Division of Coastal Resources Management, P.O. Box 501304, or sent by fax at 664-8315, or by email at ssablan@dcrm.gov.mp. The project file is open for review and comments during regular business hours from 7:30 A.M. – 4:30 P.M., Monday through Friday. All written and oral comments received by DCRM will be included as part of the permit application records and will be considered in any decisions concerning the proposed project. Please contact Ms. Sam Sablan at the DCRM Permitting Office at 664-8300/1 if you have any questions or would like to learn more about the CNMI United Investment Corporation, Ltd. Retaining Wall and Shoreline Revetment Project.

/s/ Richard V. Salas
Director
Division of Coastal Resources Management

Castro and Route bag agriculture awards

The farmers' association, Kagman Agricultural Farms and Producers Association, Inc., has selected Jesus M. Castro and Arnold Route for the Producer and Conservation Planner Award for submission to the National Association of Conservation District in Washington, D.C.

The two were chosen during the association's monthly meeting last Tuesday night at the Kagman Community Center, with members of the organization nominating and voting among themselves.

"I am keeping my fingers crossed that our nominees will be selected on the national level because of their dedication and commitment to producing locally grown foods. Our nominees will be competing against other nominees from other states and territories," said Glenn H. Manglona, president of the farmers' association. "This is for the 2023 Hugh Hammond Bennett Award nomination and the nomination will go through regional and national award process but they are our winners locally already."

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Kagman Agricultural Farms and Producers Association, Inc. has selected Jesus M. Castro for the Local Producer Award.

Local Producer Award: Jesus M. Castro

Castro embodies the commitment to conservation planning, pioneering new opportunities and leadership in the farming community.

Castro has been producing crops commercially for over 30 years on Saipan and is committed to learning and applying conservation practices. He produces a variety of crops that are prepared and sold fresh or preserved. He also been a client of the Environmental Quality Incentive Program on soil erosion, mulching and high tunnels for many years. He has performed community outreach and education program through various media and participated in cooking demonstrations using locally grown produce. He also taught on the local applications of fertilizers; and has spoken about specialty crops on the radio show Marianas Agupa.

Conservation Planner Award: Arnold Route

Route has been practicing various conservation methods and teaching to other farmers. He demonstrates a high standard of conservation practice planning and implementation to customers as well as sharing his expertise with others, including helping other farmers plan their drip irrigation systems to maximize water retention.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Arnold Route is awarded the Producer and Conservation Planner Award by the Kagman Agricultural Farms and Producers Association.

Route has been an extension agent for 20 years and counting and utilizes no-till farming and drip irrigation systems to maintain soil health and to conserve water. ***(PR)***

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

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Job Vacancy Announcement

JVA No. 23-069 (RE-ANNOUNCEMENT)

Opening Date: Monday, August 21, 2023
Closing Date: Friday, September 1, 2023

POSITION TITLE:	**Fiscal Assistant: Meter Reader**
DEPARTMENT:	**COA/Billing**
LOCATION:	**Saipan, Northern Marianas Islands, USA**
ANNUAL SALARY:	**$19,616.00 to $22,602.00 per annum, (plus Hazardous pay) Non-Exempt**
CONTRACT:	**Not Contracted**
POSITION(S):	**Two (2)**

The incumbent will be under the direct supervision of the Chief of Administration or his/her designee.

Duties:

- Required to work in the field obtaining utility meter readings for electric and water consumption meters, deep well or outflow meters and other similar devices and entering data in hand-held computers or devices.
- Performs work orders for customer service verifications and investigations. Reports findings and recommends solutions and updates customer accounts.
- Performs research on account discrepancies or unusual meter readings and consumption. Reports irregularities or reasons for fluctuations.
- Prepares reports of findings, deficiencies and recommendations to assist in investigations and billing resolutions as needed.
- Inspects, repairs, replaces or disconnects utility meters and equipment and services.
- Assigns routing numbers for customer locations.
- Monitors meters for damaged or unauthorized connections and tampering.
- Assists in reviewing cycles, work orders, and readings in preparation of bill processing.
- Assists in the processing and printing of customer bills and delivery of bills and notices.
- Assists other divisions with mapping projects, locations, and other requirements.
- Operates and maintains use of government vehicles; conducts basic vehicle inspections to ensure they are in proper working order and recommends service and maintenance of vehicles.
- Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

Minimum Requirements:
Education: High School Diploma or GED or ABE Program AS Diploma.

Knowledge of: Customer service principles; Basic mathematical principles; Recordkeeping principles; Safety principles and safe work practices; Applicable equipment used in field utility services (based on assignment); Modern office technology.

Skills in: Coordinating services with other departments or resources; Inspecting and operating field equipment related to utility usage (based on assignment); Performing basic mathematical calculations; Researching account information or discrepancies; Preparing and maintaining files, forms, reports and records; Copying and scanning documents; Updating, maintaining and preparing reports and spreadsheet tracking documents; Utilizing a computer and relevant software applications; Utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

Licensing:
o Valid CNMI Driver's License with appropriate class.
All applicants may be tested and all applicants are subject to pre-employment drug test.

How to Apply: Submit a completed CUC Employment Application, resume, and applicable supporting documents to the CUC Human Resources office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan, Monday through Friday 7:30 am – 4:30 pm (Except Legal Holidays). Applicants on the island of Tinian and Rota may submit their documents to their respective CUC Administration office. Application, resume and supporting documents can also be e-mailed to: employment.applications@cucgov.org.

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Job Vacancy Announcement

JVA No. 23-058 (RE-ANNOUNCEMENT)

Opening Date: Monday, August 21, 2023
Closing Date: Friday, September 1, 2023

POSITION TITLE:	**Grants Writer**
DEPARTMENT:	**Executive Director/Grants Office**
LOCATION:	**Saipan, Northern Marianas Islands, USA**
ANNUAL SALARY:	**$37,756.00 to $50,970.00 per annum, Exempt**
CONTRACT:	**Contracted**
POSITION(S):	**One (1)**

The incumbent will be under the direct supervision of the Grants Administrator. The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation ("CUC") is seeking for a qualified Grants Writer who will be responsible to research on potential federal government agencies offering grants exclusively for utility-oriented project(s).

Duties:

- Writes, edits, and proofreads proposals in accordance with grantor standards and requirements and in-line with utility milestones.
- Works along-side Division Managers, Project Managers and/or Engineers in order to attain a comprehensive project proposal(s) meeting grant required standards.
- Maintains and tracks grant requests and reporting requirements.
- Maintains grant data and files regarding information about grantors, including contact information, requests for funding, reporting requirements, deadlines, and whether the requests are funded or not funded corresponding to existing funded or partially-funded projects.
- Corresponds with prospects and grantors, including following up to check on status of proposals and reporting back to them on their program investments.
- Coordinates with the Grants Administrator in response to questions concerning grant requirements and compliance.
- Prepares accurate and timely progress report(s) and regularly informs Grants Administrator of project status and any deviation from established timeline or goals and for Executive Director monthly reporting.
- Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

Minimum Requirements:
Education: Associate's Degree in Business Administration, Public Administration or directly related field and four (4) years of experience in grants or grants administration with a proven track record in securing new funding opportunities, comprehensive knowledge of research and the ability to distinguish and identify funding opportunities for special programs; or, an equivalent combination of education and experience sufficient to successfully perform the essential duties of the job such as those listed above.

Proficiency in the applications of Microsoft software – Word, Excel, PowerPoint, and Outlook.

Knowledge of: Applicable Federal, Commonwealth and local laws, codes, regulations and/or ordinances; Program administration principles; Customer service principles; Mathematical concepts; Research methods; Database and records management principles; Modern office technology.

Skills in: Interpreting and applying applicable laws, codes, regulations and standards; Administering and monitoring programs, policies and processes; Coordinating the implementation of human resource services; Researching and analyzing program-related data and resource information; Providing customer service; Interpreting policies and providing relevant information and guidance; Prioritizing work in order to meet time-sensitive program deadlines; Tracking and auditing data, forms, records and documentation; Preparing reports, correspondence, and program support materials; Updating and maintaining information systems and confidential records; Coordinating and assisting with projects; Utilizing a computer and relevant software applications; Utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

Abilities: Must have excellent writing and computer skills and database management skills; Must be highly organized with the ability to implement systems and follow-up processes, able to effectively work under pressure, use independent judgment and produce quality work product within tight time constraints.

Licensing:
o Valid CNMI Driver's License with appropriate class.

All applicants may be tested and all applicants are subject to pre-employment drug test.

How to Apply: Submit a completed CUC Employment Application, resume, and applicable supporting documents to the CUC Human Resources office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan, Monday through Friday 7:30 am – 4:30 pm (Except Legal Holidays). Applicants on the island of Tinian and Rota may submit their documents to their respective CUC Administration office. Application, resume and supporting documents can also be e-mailed to: employment.applications@cucgov.org.

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COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION (RFQ)

RFQ23-CHCC/DESIGN BUILD-IDIQ-016A

"ADDENDUM"

EXTENSION OF SUBMISSION DATE AND SUBMISSION OF INQUIRIES
REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS FOR IDIQ (INDEFINITE DELIVERY-INDEFINITE QUANTITY)
DESIGN/BUILD CONTRACTORS FOR COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation (CHCC) is a public corporation and autonomous agency of the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI). In accordance with its Procurement Rules and Regulations, NMIAC Subchapter 140-80.1, CHCC hereby seeks the services of qualified Contractors to perform Design/Build Services for Projects located at the hospital in Saipan, Clinics in Tinian and Rota. The selected Contractors will be issued an Indefinite Delivery-Indefinite Quantity (IDIQ) Contract through **RFQ23-CHCC-DESIGN/BUILD-0016.** These services are in accordance with CHCC's Procurement Rules and Regulations and procedures shall be in full compliance with these rules and regulations including but not limited to Sections **140-80.1-250 Pre-Qualification of Contractors and 140-80.1-305 Architect-Engineer Services.**

The Request for Proposals and was available on July 26th, 2023 online at www.chcc.health, navigate to the RFP tab on the left navigation bar, click on the URL for this **RFQ23-CHCC/DESIGN BUILD-IDIQ-016.**

A Pre-conference meeting was held in August 2nd, 2023 at 9:30AM at the Conference Room #3 and general assembly was held at the Lobby of the Main Administrative Building.

Inquiries regarding this RFP is extended and must be submitted in writing via email to Ms. Cora P. Ada, Director of Procurement at cora.ada@chcc.health no later than **September 4th, 2023.**

Proposers shall submit proposals and all supporting documents to **Corazon P. Ada, Director, CHCC Division of Procurement and Supply, at cora.ada@chcc.health, no later than: 1700hrs (5:00pm) Chamorro Standard Time on September 15th, 2023.**

/S/ DR. ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORA P. ADA
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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EDITORIAL

Of course Trump should skip the GOP debates. He's unfit for office

On Wednesday, candidates for the 2024 Republican presidential nomination will assemble in Milwaukee for the campaign's first televised debate. Conspicuous by his absence will be Donald Trump, the front-runner despite two impeachments, four indictments and a loss in the last election that he refused to recognize.

On Truth Social, Trump wrote: "The public knows who I am & what a successful Presidency I had . . .. I WILL THEREFORE NOT BE DOING THE DEBATES!"

Trump's refusal to join the debate is a sign of his narcissism, but his absence is welcome. No one who has attempted to overturn the will of the voters deserves to be on a debate stage again. But while Trump the candidate may be missing, Trump the issue very much belongs in the debate.

It's appropriate for the Republican candidates who do participate to answer questions about their positions on abortion, Ukraine and the federal deficit, but they need to be pressed on the urgent, overarching issue of whether a president should be able to scheme to undermine the integrity of American elections with impunity. Inextricably entwined in that question is a judgment on Trump's past conduct and present unfitness.

Lawyers can argue about whether Trump should be convicted of particular crimes and whether he is ineligible to appear on the ballot under the 14th Amendment because he participated in an insurrection or rebellion, as two conservative legal scholars have argued in a much-discussed article. There can be no doubt, however, that Trump's attempt to overturn a democratic election and cling to power—a campaign that inspired a riot at the U.S. Capitol on the day electoral votes were to be counted—should disqualify him.

All current and potential Republican candidates for president must be asked if they agree with that proposition. They also should say whether they would accept the result in 2024 if they were the nominee and lost. Vacuous sentiments about the need to "look forward, not backward" are unacceptable. So are exercises in whataboutism, false equivalence and loose talk about the prosecution of Trump or Jan. 6 defendants amounting to a "weaponization" of the administration of justice.

Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis recently admitted that Trump lost the 2020 election, but a now-infamous memo prepared by a firm associated with a pro-DeSantis super PAC recommended that DeSantis "defend Trump when Chris Christie attacks him," a reference to the former New Jersey governor who has been vocal in condemning Trump's attempts to overturn the 2020 election. (Fox News reported that DeSantis said he hadn't read the memo.) North Dakota Gov. Doug Burgum bobbed and weaved in a "Meet the Press" interview when he was asked whether he thinks Trump tried to overturn the election results in 2020.

It's no mystery why some of Trump's opponents would be skittish about condemning his assault on democracy and declaring him unacceptable. Candidates are understandably loath to alienate Trump supporters who hold the former president in a cultish veneration. A sobering CBS News/YouGov poll found that 71% of Trump voters feel that what Trump tells them is true, while 63% said they trusted what they were told by friends and family.

See OF on Page 9

A US government shutdown should never be an option

By MAX STIER
Bloomberg Opinion

The highly contentious partisan fight in Congress over federal spending is creating a strong possibility of a government shutdown on Oct. 1, an all-too-familiar situation that is forcing federal agencies to confront serious budget uncertainties and the prospect of large-scale furloughs.

For most businesses, operating under the constant threat of a shutdown would be unthinkable—none could tolerate the effects of such instability on their workforces and on their ability to serve their customers.

Yet today, these are the exact conditions facing our nation's largest employer, which directly serves millions of people each day and is relied on by the public to meet its basic needs.

While some would welcome a shutdown to solve longstanding policy differences and argue that it would hardly affect the country, keeping our government open and operating is a fundamental responsibility of Congress and the White House. Doing the opposite would seriously harm the American public and the nation's public servants.

A lapse in federal funding, particularly if a shutdown was governmentwide and dragged on for many weeks, would result in the suspension of vital public services, prevent agencies from fulfilling critical missions, deprive federal workers of their livelihoods, damage the economy and further erode public trust in the government. A 2019 Senate report found that the government shutdowns in 2013, 2018 and 2019 cost taxpayers nearly $4 billion.

If the past is prologue, federal employees who ensure the safety of the food and drug supply could be sidelined, small-business loans and new public stock offerings could be put on hold, immigration courts could be closed, scientific research could be halted and air travel could be adversely affected.

A shutdown could also stall some FBI criminal investigations, further drain the federal government's disaster relief fund as it confronts severe climate emergencies and deprive people with disabilities of services. Passport offices, already deluged with applications and facing an enormous backlog, could be closed while the IRS, which is just now getting its head above water, could face a shutdown in tax processing and help lines.

In addition, a drawn-out shutdown would run the risk of diminishing America's standing abroad, making it harder for the country to respond to international threats and undermining its influence in the midst of the war in Ukraine and our dealings with China, Russia and other nations.

While the House and Senate debates over important issues are often contentious and frequently fueled by strong ideological and partisan differences, shutting down the government and denying services to the public should never be an option.

Unfortunately, there have been 21 shutdowns of a day or longer since the mid-1970s, including the 35-day shutdown in the winter of 2018-2019. The last time Congress met its obligation to pass all 12 regular appropriations bills to fund the government by the Oct. 1 deadline came in 1997 during the Clinton administration.

While the current political climate poses a significant challenge to reaching agreement for the fiscal 2024 funding bills, longer-term fixes need to be considered.

For starters, Congress should enact bipartisan legislation offered by Senators James Lankford, an Oklahoma Republican, and Maggie Hassan, a New Hampshire Democrat, which would automatically provide for government funding to continue at existing spending levels when Congress and the president do not meet the deadline to enact new yearlong appropriations bills.

This legislation would also restrict consideration by Congress of other matters—and would prohibit almost all travel for lawmakers, their staff members and White House and Office of Management and Budget officials—until appropriations bills are enacted.

While there are downsides to putting more government spending on temporary autopilot, such a proposal could serve as a stopgap until Congress permanently fixes the badly broken budget and appropriations processes. It should be noted that two-thirds of federal spending, including Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid, is already mandatory and is not hostage to these annual disruptions.

Another way to incentivize lawmakers to act would be to pass legislation requiring that the salaries of members of Congress, the president and vice president be withheld if deadlines are not met to keep the government fully functioning. Why should career federal employees be denied their paychecks, and in many cases still be required to work, while elected officials get paid for reneging on their responsibilities?

The bottom line is that the status quo is unacceptable, a disservice to the American people and the federal workforce, and a dereliction of duty.

It's time for Congress to adopt its own version of the Geneva Convention for the partisan battlefield. There are some acts of war that should never be contemplated, and there are some activities of Congress, such as government shutdowns, that are unacceptable and should never be tolerated.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

One thing we know about the Maui wildfires: Some of those most responsible won't pay a cent

By CAROLINE LEVINE
Los Angeles Times

Caroline Levine is a professor of the humanities at Cornell University, where she teaches in the Environment and Sustainability program, and the author of The Activist Humanist: Form and Method in the Climate Crisis.

Maui faces devastating economic costs beyond its intolerable human loss and suffering from recent wildfires. Scorched homes and businesses reduced to rubble won't be rebuilt quickly; cleaning up their remnants, some of them toxic, won't be cheap. Rebuilding costs have been estimated at $5.5 billion.

Who will pay for this? Most of us will, to varying degrees, but some of those most responsible—the fossil fuel companies that play a key role in such climate-related disasters—won't.

Extreme weather events always take their highest economic toll on the communities directly hit. Maui's families, many of whom live paycheck to paycheck, have suddenly lost both jobs and homes. They'll now struggle to meet their most basic needs. Even those who have some savings will have to figure out how to make them last through long delays for inspections, insurance payments and federal aid.

Taxpayers will keep some emergency shelters and food supplies going and fund longer-term federal assistance. Over the past 10 years, the U.S. government has spent $350 billion on climate-related disasters.

Insurance companies will cover much of the property damage. They'll probably hike rates across the state, too, passing on the costs to ordinary Hawaiians. Some may even stop selling homeowner coverage in Hawaii, as State Farm and others have done in wildfire-prone California, exposing residents to even greater costs.

Hawaiian Electric already faces legal action over the possibility that the utility's equipment started the fires. If California residents' experience attempting to extract compensation from Pacific Gas and Electric Co. is any guide, the results will be mixed.

The fossil fuel companies, however, won't be paying a cent. That's despite the fact that their products created the climate conditions that made such fires more likely and more catastrophic. Less rain, higher temperatures and other factors related to climate change have made Hawaii, like California, more vulnerable to wildfires.

As Naomi Oreskes and Erik M. Conway have shown, major oil, gas and coal companies foresaw the catastrophic climatic consequences of fossil fuel use. But instead of leading an energy transition, they opted to sow public doubt about the link between fossil fuels and global warming and continued to invest in new mines and oilfields.

Cannily, fossil fuel companies have also turned public attention away from themselves by encouraging ordinary people to feel guilty about our own "carbon footprints," pointing the finger at you and me.

And it's you and I and the struggling citizens of Maui who are left to pick up the ever-mounting bill for climate disasters.

It doesn't have to be this way.

One solution is to put a price on carbon to account for "externalities," the term economists use for costs that aren't reflected in the prices consumers pay.

Let's say I buy a fertilizer for my crops that assures me a great yield. But when that fertilizer leaches into a nearby lake, it spawns lethal algae blooms, contaminates drinking water and kills plants and fish. I may be delighted by my profits, but I'm costing my neighbors substantial sums in healthcare, tourism and fishing revenue. These are the fertilizer's dispersed costs—its externalities.

According to 28 Nobel laureate economists and 15 former chairs of the Council of Economic Advisors, it makes good economic sense to charge fossil fuel companies for the real costs of their products through a carbon tax. That cost would include much of the billions of dollars of damage to Maui.

Of course, raising fuel prices could make life harder for Americans who already struggle to fill their gas tanks. But there's an excellent economic solution to that too. The group Citizens Climate Lobby has proposed to return carbon pricing revenue through regular dividends to all U.S. households. This model would reduce emissions, create jobs and stimulate innovation without burdening low- and middle-income families.

Another solution is divestment from fossil fuel companies. Investors can force these companies to bear more of the social costs of their products by declining to buy and own their stocks.

Your own savings may have played role in the cause of the devastation in Hawaii. Just 23 investors are responsible for 50% of worldwide investments in fossil fuels. The biggest culprits are asset management giants Vanguard and BlackRock, with Fidelity Investments, JPMorgan Chase, T. Rowe Price, Bank of America and Berkshire Hathaway also making the list. My own retirement fund, TIAA, a nonprofit founded for teachers, manages at least $78 billion in fossil fuel-related holdings, according to one analysis.

Once investors have sunk our money into fossil fuels, they join the chorus lobbying politicians to protect fossil fuel profits. Coal, oil and gas companies are wielding massive influence in the political arena to manipulate the economy to their benefit at our expense. After giving millions of dollars to Senate Republicans this year, fossil fuel companies lobbied for cuts to the Energy Department's renewables office and reductions in energy efficiency standards.

What if these companies had acknowledged the need for an energy transition 10 or 20 years ago? For the sake of their own bottom lines, they would be championing renewable energy and climate regulation, and we would have a different political landscape.

As long as we keep investing in, subsidizing and cleaning up after the fossil fuel companies, they'll keep happily passing on these exorbitant costs to us. Isn't it time to send this bill to the right address?

Big Tech's voluntary commitment to responsible AI offers us false assurances

By MOHAMMAD HOSSEINI
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Maui faces devastating economic costs beyond its intolerable human loss and suffering from recent wildfires. Scorched homes and businesses reduced to rubble won't be rebuilt quickly; cleaning up their remnants, some of them toxic, won't be cheap. Rebuilding costs have been estimated at $5.5 billion.

Who will pay for this? Most of us will, to varying degrees, but some of those most responsible—the fossil fuel companies that play a key role in such climate-related disasters—won't.

Extreme weather events always take their highest economic toll on the communities directly hit. Maui's families, many of whom live paycheck to paycheck, have suddenly lost both jobs and homes. They'll now struggle to meet their most basic needs. Even those who have some savings will have to figure out how to make them last through long delays for inspections, insurance payments and federal aid.

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OF

From page 8

Yet it's possible that Trump's support among Republicans would ebb if more GOP candidates—and other figures in the party—followed the example of Christie and former Arkansas Gov. Asa Hutchinson in forthrightly condemning Trump. Trump's Republican opponents and party leaders need to look beyond the nomination process to reflect about how Trump would fare in the general election. Not everyone who will be watching Wednesday's debate will be a Republican or a Trump supporter. Many viewing the event will think better of candidates who acknowledge the brutal fact that Trump is unworthy of either nomination or election.

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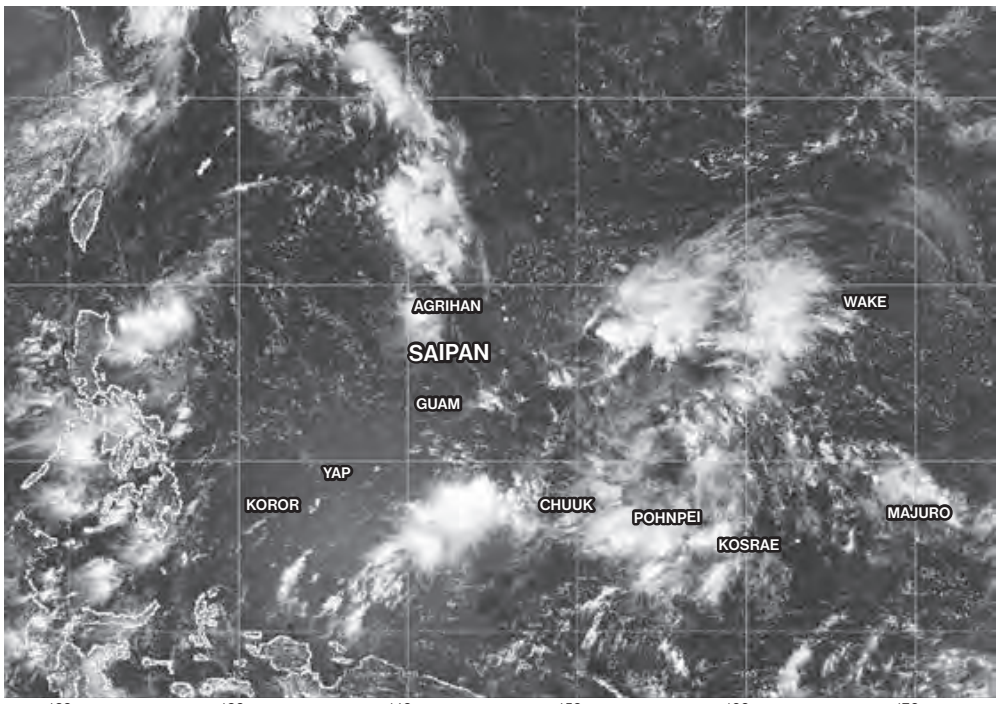
The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Isolated showers. Mostly sunny	Mostly sunny	A 30 percent chance of showers. Partly sunny	A chance of showers. Mostly cloud	A chance of showers. Mostly cloudy
87° 79°	86° 79°	86° 79°	86° 79°	86° 78°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 8:33 AM, WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 23, 2023

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A developing monsoon pattern will cause an increased chance of shower activity across the Marianas through the coming weekend.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: https://www.weather.gov/gum/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°
Palau	Thunderstorms	84° / 78°
Yap	Thunderstorms	84° / 80°
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	86° / 76°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	86° / 76°
Kosrae	Partly Cloudy	86° / 76°
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	86° / 79°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Mostly Cloudy	61° / 54°
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	88° / 72°
Hong Kong	Thunderstorm	88° / 81°
Honolulu	Thunderstorm	87° / 77°
London	Partly Cloudy	72° / 55°
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	80° / 65°
Manila	Thunderstorm	88° / 79°
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	55° / 39°
Miami	Thunderstorm	88° / 80°
New York	Partly Cloudy	92° / 76°
Osaka	Thunderstorm	90° / 79°
Paris	Showers	75° / 57°
Busan	Thunderstorm	82° / 75°
Rome	Sunny	84° / 61°
Salem	Partly Cloudy	89° / 71°
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	61° / 54°
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	86° / 70°
Tokyo	Thunderstorm	88° / 77°
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	93° / 75°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:03 AM	6:35 PM
Friday	6:03 AM	6:34 PM
Saturday	6:03 AM	6:33 PM
Sunday	6:04 AM	6:33 PM
Monday	6:04 AM	6:32 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	12:09 PM	11:40 PM	-
Friday	1:08 PM	-	-
Saturday	-	12:32 AM	2:10 PM
Sunday	-	1:30 AM	3:13 PM
Monday	-	2:35 AM	4:14 PM

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
7:03 AM	Low Tide	0.38
1:52 PM	High Tide	1.59
6:51 PM	Low Tide	1.27
-	-	-

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF AUGUST 21, 2023

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	9:50AM	10:30AM	Daily
UA156	7:10PM	7:55PM	1, 4

SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)

UA824	7:25AM	9:55AM	1, 3, 5

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	1, 3, 4, 5, 7
PR 111	6:55AM	8:55AM	2, 6
UA193	6:55PM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Palau
UA183	7:15PM	9:10PM	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/703	4:20AM	10:35PM	Daily
7C3403/2305	4:45AM	10:20PM	Daily
UA117/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam
UA117/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

TW308	3:15AM	7:00AM	Daily
OZ626	4:20AM	7:55AM	Daily
7C3403	4:45AM	8:35AM	Daily
7C3405	4:10PM	7:45PM	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:20AM	6:30AM	1, 4, 5, 7

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	8:00AM	8:50AM	Daily
UA112	5:15PM	6:05PM	1, 4

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

UA825	9:25PM	1:50AM+1	2, 4, 7

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

UA184	10:25PM	4:25AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA192	10:25PM	6:10AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
PR110	10:30PM	4:25AM+1	2, 3, 5, 6, 7
PR110	11:30PM	5:25AM+1	1, 5
UA184	11:50PM	5:50AM+1	2, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ702/625	12:05PM	2:55AM+1	Daily
UA184/174	10:25PM	8:50AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6,7 via Guam
UA192/174	10:25PM	8:50AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
7C2306/3406	11:10PM	3:10PM+1	Daily
UA184/174	11:50PM	8:50AM+1	2, 5 via Guam

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3406	9:30AM	3:10PM	Daily
TW307	8:30PM	2:15AM+1	Daily
OZ625	9:25PM	2:55AM+1	Daily
7C3404	10:10PM	3:40AM+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:35PM	2:20AM+1	3, 4, 6, 7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2022

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30	9:00	Daily
1302	11:00	11:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
1302	12:00	12:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun
1303	15:30	16:00	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	13:00	13:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun
3102	14:00	14:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
3103	16:30	17:00	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

LIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	12:00	12:30	Mon/Wed/Fri

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	13:00	13:30	Mon/Wed/Fri

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Daily

Business

Theranova Body Care now available at Spa Ocean

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Looking for a way to lose stubborn tummy fat without sweating or treating aches and pain in your body?

Then drive down to Spa Ocean in Chalan Kanoa where its new Theranova Body Care offering may just do the trick for you.

According to the internet, the theranova method achieves these results through thermotherapy and cavitation pressure, where cells are activated, metabolism, blood and lymph circulation are promoted, and wastes accumulated in the body are discharged with metabolism to achieve weight loss and other health care effects.

Spa Ocean supervisor Maureen Aguon said they introduced the Theranova Body Care treatment at the end of June and so far customers who have tried it have come away quite satisfied.

She said Theranova Body Care provides anti-cellulite care and pain relief.

"Thermal decompression therapy provides anti-aging and improved circulation. It manages fat and cellulite by combining heat and suction with vacuum action," she said.

Aguon added that their specially imported Theranova machine from South Korea generates heat within cells, which helps lymph flow, blood flow, pain relief, and concentrated fat loss.

"The Theranova machine shoots energy similar to that flowing in our bodies. Our staff artificially shoot energy to enhance energy flow within a customer's body which results in pain relief," she said.

The treatment, however, is not a one-shot deal as best results for Theranova Body Care are achieved if customers sign up for the full four sessions.

Luckily, Spa Ocean has an introductory promotion where the $320 costs for four sessions has been discounted to just $260.

Aside from the Theranova Body Care, Spa Ocean also offers various massage treatments with the Full Body Care Treatment being the most sought after.

Full Body Care A includes body massage, facial, and body scrub, while Full Body Care B comes with body massage, facial, and body treatment.

Spa Ocean also offers Hot Stone Massage for 90 minutes and two hours. A hot stone massage is a type of massage therapy that places smooth, flat, heated stones on specific parts of the body to help relax and ease tense muscles and damaged soft tissues.

Aguon said they've also recently introduced a 90-minute Facial Deep Care Treatment that uses an AquaPlus machine.

"It's a deep cleansing multicare system that can exfoliate and inject a lot of nutrition deeply by spraying water particles and minerals at the same time as suction using strong pressure," she said.

Through exfoliation and moisturizing and soothing care the Facial Deep Care treatment removes concentrated waste matter from pores and therefore gently improves aged dead skin cells and activates healthy skin cells.

Spa Ocean also has Ear Candle Therapy where the treatment relieves pressure from behind the eardrum and relieves earache, headache, and sinus pressure.

Luxurious manicure, pedicure, and foot planning services also were unveiled by Spa Ocean this month. The new services include what they call gel mani, gel extension, pedicure, foot planning, and, and gel remover.

Aguon said Spa Ocean will also soon be offering eyelash extensions.

Spa Ocean is located at Surfrider Resort Hotel, right next to Great Harvest Bread Co. in Chalan Kanoa.

It has three rooms with two beds with each having a private restroom with shower and one room with two beds.

Spa Ocean is open from 11am to 11pm, Monday-Sunday. For more information or to make an appointment, call (670) 235-7000 or (670)287-9009 and they can also be reached through their Facebook page: Spa Ocean and Instagram: spaocean_saipan.

MARK RABAGO
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MARK RABAGO
Spa Ocean's Theranova machine from South Korea generates heat within cells, which helps lymph flow, blood flow, pain relief, and concentrated fat loss.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Theranova Body Care's thermal decompression therapy provides anti-aging and improved circulation.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Spa Ocean also offers Hot Stone Massage for 90 minutes and two hours.

UPS workers approve 5-year contract

By HALELUYA HADERO and MATT OTT
AP BUSINESS WRITERS

The union representing 340,000 UPS workers said Tuesday that its members voted to approve the tentative contract agreement reached last month, putting a final seal on contentious labor negotiations that threatened to disrupt package deliveries for millions of businesses and households nationwide.

The Teamsters said in a statement that 86% of the votes casts were in favor of ratifying the national contract. They also said it was passed by the highest vote for a contract in the history of the Teamsters at UPS.

The union said more than 40 supplemental agreements were also ratified, except for one that covers roughly 170 members in Florida. The national master agreement will go into effect as soon as that supplement is renegotiated and ratified, it said.

UPS said voting results for deals covering employees under two locals are expected soon.

» Caps contentious negotiations that threatened deliveries

"Our members just ratified the most lucrative agreement the Teamsters have ever negotiated at UPS," Teamsters General President Sean M. O'Brien said in a statement. "This contract will improve the lives of hundreds of thousands of workers."

Putin denounces sanctions on Russia during speech for S. Africa economic summit

JOHANNESBURG (AP)— Russian President Vladimir Putin took multiple shots at the West on the opening day of an economic summit in South Africa, using a prerecorded speech that was aired on giant screens Tuesday to rail at what he called "illegitimate sanctions" on his country and threatening to cut off Ukraine's grain exports permanently.

Putin, the subject of an International Criminal Court arrest warrant related to the war in Ukraine, did not travel to Johannesburg for the summit of the BRICS group of emerging economies. Instead, he plans to participate remotely in the three-day meeting of the bloc that encompasses Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa.

His 17-minute speech recorded in advance centered on the war in Ukraine and Russia's relationship with the West even though South African officials had said East-West frictions should not dominate the first in-person BRICS summit since before the COVID-19 pandemic and hoped to guide the conversation away from the deteriorating geopolitical climate.

Sitting at a desk with a white notebook in front of him and a Russian flag behind, Putin said a wartime deal to facilitate Ukrainian grain shipments that is critical for the world's food supply would not resume until his conditions - the easing of restrictions on Russian food and agricultural products - are met.

Nation

Families of people missing after deadly fires urged to give DNA samples

LAHAINA, Hawaii (AP)—Authorities in Hawaii pleaded Tuesday with relatives of those missing after the deadliest U.S. wildfire in more than a century to come forward and give DNA samples, saying the low number provided so far threatens to hinder efforts to identify any remains discovered in the ashes.

Some 1,000 to 1,100 names remain on the FBI's tentative, unconfirmed list of people unaccounted for after wildfires destroyed the historic seaside community of Lahaina on Maui. But the family assistance center so far has collected DNA from just 104 families, said Julie French, who is helping lead efforts to identify remains by DNA analysis.

Maui Prosecuting Attorney Andrew Martin, who is running the center, said that the number of family members coming in to provide DNA samples is "a lot lower" than in other major disasters around the country, though it wasn't immediately clear why.

AP

Guadalupe Gonzalez, a Lahaina, Hawaii, resident who survived a deadly wildfire, stands next to missing person flyers while waiting for a post office to open in Lahaina, Hawaii, Monday, Aug. 21, 2023.

"That's our concern, that's why I'm here today, that's why I'm asking for this help," he said.

Martin and French sought to reassure people that any samples would be used only to help identify fire victims and would not be entered into any law enforcement databases or used for any other purpose. People will not be not asked about their immigration status or citizenship, they said.

"What we want to do—all we want to do—is help people locate and identify their unaccounted-for loved ones," Martin said.

Two weeks after the flames tore through Lahaina, officials are facing huge challenges to determine how many people who remain unaccounted for perished and how many made it to safety but haven't checked in.

Something similar happened after a wildfire in 2018 that killed 85 people and destroyed the town of Paradise, California. Authorities in Butte County, home to Paradise, ultimately published a list of the missing in the local newspaper, a decision that helped identify scores of people who had made it out alive but were listed as missing. Within a month, the list dropped from 1,300 names to only a dozen.

Hawaii officials have expressed concern that by releasing a list of the missing, they would also be identifying some people who have died. In an email Tuesday, the State Joint Information Center called it "a standard held by all law enforcement and first responders here in Hawaii, out of compassion and courtesy for the families, to withhold the names until the families can be contacted."

As of Monday there were 115 confirmed dead, according to Maui police. All single-story, residential properties in the disaster area had been searched, and teams were transitioning to searching multi-story residential and commercial properties, Maui County officials said in an update late Monday.

Police Chief John Pelletier said Tuesday that his team faces difficulties in coming up with a solid list of the missing. In some cases people only provided partial names, and in other cases names might be duplicated. There was "no secrecy, no hiding things," he added.

"We want to get a verified list. The 1,100 names right now, we know that there's a margin of that that some of them have first names only and there's no contact number back. So there was a, 'John's missing,' and when we try to call back who said that, no one is answering," he said. "And so we're trying to scrub this to make it as accurate as we can."

Pelletier urged people to provide DNA and file a police report with as much information as possible if they have relatives unaccounted for.

"If you feel you've got a family member that's unaccounted for, give the DNA," he said. "Do the report. Let's figure this out. A name with no callback doesn't help anybody."

Prosecutors: Witness in Trump's classified documents case retracted false testimony

WASHINGTON (AP)—A witness in the criminal case against Donald Trump over the hoarding of classified documents retracted "prior false testimony" after switching lawyers last month and provided new information that implicated the former president, the Justice Department said Tuesday.

The statements from the witness, a Trump staffer identified in court papers as the director of information technology at Mar-a-Lago, was presented to prosecutors weeks before special counsel Jack Smith secured an updated indictment accusing Trump and two others in a plot to delete surveillance video at the Florida property.

Prosecutors said in a court filing Tuesday that the witness told a grand jury in Washington in March that he could not recall any conversations about the security footage

But in July, after being warned by prosecutors that he was a target of the investigation and after being advised that his lawyer might have a conflict of interest because of his representation of others in the probe, the witness received a new attorney from the federal defender's office and provided the Justice Department with information that helped form the basis of the revised indictment against Trump, his valet Walt Nauta and a third defendant, Carlos De Oliveira, the court filing says.

Prosecutors described the witness interaction in a filing that seeks a hearing in Florida about potential conflicts of interest involving the defense lawyer, Stanley Woodward, who also represents Nauta. Woodward declined to comment Tuesday to The Associated Press.

"The target letter to Trump Employee 4 crystallized a conflict of interest arising from Mr. Woodward's concurrent representation of Trump Employee 4 and Nauta," prosecutors wrote.

They added: "Advising Trump Employee 4 to correct his sworn testimony would result in testimony incriminating Mr. Woodward's other client, Nauta; but permitting Trump Employee 4's false testimony to stand uncorrected would leave Trump Employee 4 exposed to criminal charges for perjury."

In the filing, the Justice Department also sought to explain its use of grand juries in both Washington and Florida, where charges were ultimately filed. U.S. District Judge Aileen Cannon, a Florida judge presiding over the case, had earlier asked about the legal propriety of using grand juries in both districts.

Prosecutors said they continued using the Washington grand jury even after charges were filed in Florida for the express purpose of investigating potential false statements by witnesses in Washington. The Washington grand jury completed its term last week, they said.

A trial has been set for May 20, 2024, in the classified documents case. Trump has pleaded not guilty and denied any wrongdoing.

Trump is facing another prosecution by Smith, over efforts to overturn the results of the 2020 presidential election, as well as a criminal case in Georgia over attempts to subvert that state's vote and another in New York in connection with hush money payments to a porn actor.

Floating barrier to stop migrants draws concerns from Mexico, US official says

AUSTIN, Texas (AP)—Mexico's government has repeatedly raised concerns with the U.S. about large buoys Texas put on the Rio Grande to deter migrants and agreements between the two countries could suffer if the floating barrier remains in place, a State Department official said in court Tuesday.

The testimony sought to reinforce what the Biden administration argues are the diplomatic stakes over wrecking-ball-sized buoys that Texas Gov. Greg Abbott authorized this summer as part of the Republican's increasingly hardline measures in the name of curbing the flow of migrants crossing the border.

U.S. District Judge David Ezra did not immediately rule at the conclusion of the hearing Tuesday in Austin. At one point, Ezra said the issue centered on whether Abbott has the power to unilaterally try stopping what the governor has described as an "invasion" on America's southern border.

"Mexico has sensitivities about sovereignty and doesn't want to be seen as a lesser partner to the United States," said Hillary Quam, the State Department's coordinator for border affairs between U.S. and Mexico.

The hearing is one of two key court cases in Texas this week surrounding immigration. On Thursday, the Biden administration will again be in court, this time on the defense as it tries to keep in place a program designed to allow people to come to the U.S. from four countries.

Texas is one of 21 states that have sued over that program, and a victory would undercut a broader policy seeking to encourage migrants to use the Biden administration's preferred pathways into the country. A decision in that hearing, which will be held in Victoria, Texas, also was not expected to come immediately.

In Austin, Quam said Mexico has raised concerns "at the highest diplomatic levels" with the U.S. in the short time that the buoys — which stretch roughly the length of a handful of soccer fields on a portion of the river near the Texas city of Eagle Pass — have been on the water. Quam said infrastructure projects between the countries and Mexico's commitments to delivering water to the U.S. could stall over the barrier.

The hearing was held days after Texas repositioned the barrier closer to U.S. soil. During a trip Monday to Eagle Pass, Abbott said the barrier was moved "out of an abundance of caution" after what he described as allegations that they had drifted to Mexico's side of the river. He added that he did not know whether the allegations were true.

Ezra questioned why Texas would have moved the barrier if it was already on the U.S. side and whether the currents of the river were causing the buoys to drift.

Asia

North Korean plane takes off from Beijing

» In sign Pyongyang is opening borders post-pandemic

AP

An Air Koryo commercial plane is seen through barbed wire as it taxies on the tarmac at the Beijing Capital International Airport in Beijing, Tuesday, Aug. 22, 2023.

BEIJING (AP)—A North Korean commercial flight has taken off from Beijing in a sign that Pyongyang is opening its borders again after almost three years of severe COVID-19 restrictions.

The Russian-made Air Koryo Tupolev Tu-204 jet with capacity for 210 passengers reportedly landed in the Chinese capital Tuesday morning and was filmed taking off shortly after 1:30 p.m. local time (0530 GMT).

China has "approved the regular flight plan of North Korean Air Koryo Pyongyang-Beijing-Pyongyang and other passenger routes in accordance with the procedures," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin said.

"The specific flight is subject to the arrangement of the airline in accordance with the approval of the Chinese competent authority," Wang said.

China is North Korea's closest diplomatic ally and a key source of food and fuel aid for an economy beset by natural disasters and mismanagement.

Little is known about conditions inside the country due to the ruling Workers Party's complete control over information and its exclusion of most foreign diplomats, United Nations organizations and overseas media.

The flight follows a meeting between U.S. President Joe Biden and the leaders of Japan and South Korea, who agreed Friday to expand security and economic ties at a historic summit at Camp David just outside Washington.

Biden maintained, as have U.S., South Korean and Japanese officials, that the summit "was not about China" but was focused on broader security issues.

Yet, the leaders in their joint summit concluding statement noted China's "dangerous and aggressive" action in the South China Sea and said they "strongly oppose any unilateral attempts to change the status quo in the waters of the Indo-Pacific."

Biden said the nations would establish a communications hotline to discuss responses to threats. He announced the agreements, including what the leaders termed the "Camp David Principles," at the close of his talks with South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol and Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida.

Yoon noted in particular the threat posed by North Korea, saying the three leaders had agreed to improve "our joint response capabilities to North Korea's nuclear and missile threats, which have become sophisticated more than ever."

Isolated diplomatically and highly food insecure, North Korea has persevered in its campaign of missile and nuclear threats that seek to glorify the regime of Kim Jong Un, the third generation of the family-run totalitarian state.

Thailand ex-PM Thaksin moved from prison to hospital

BANGKOK (AP)—Thailand's divisive former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra was transferred from prison to a hospital early Wednesday, less than a day after he returned from an extended exile and started serving an 8-year sentence.

He had returned to Thailand after 15 years abroad on the same day a party linked to him won a parliamentary vote to form a new government. Thaksin was then sent to prison to serve sentences from several criminal convictions made in absentia that he had decried as politically motivated.

The prison reported Thaksin had high blood pressure and low oxygen, he could not sleep and felt tightness in his chest, according to a statement from Sitthi Sutivong, deputy director-general of the Corrections Department.

Doctors at the prison's hospital said he should be transferred to prevent life-threatening risks, the statement said. Corrections officials previously had said Thaksin, 74, was considered vulnerable due to his age and chronic conditions of his heart and lungs, high blood pressure, and back problems.

Hours after Thaksin's return to Thailand, Pheu Thai party candidate Srettha Thavisin secured enough votes to become prime minister, ending over three months of suspense, legal wrangling and horse trading that followed May elections. The party had entered a coalition with military parties linked to a coup that removed it from power in 2014, and excluded the progressive Move Forward Party that won the most votes in the elections.

Srettha is expected to receive a royal endorsement as prime minister later Wednesday, according to Thai media.

Pheu Thai is the latest in a string of parties affiliated with Thaksin, who was ousted in a 2006 military coup. The coup that ousted him triggered nearly two decades of deep political divisions that pitted a mostly poor, rural majority in the north that supports Thaksin against royalists, the military and their urban backers.

A Pheu Thai government led by Thaksin's sister, Yingluck Shinawatra, was ousted in the 2014 coup by then-army chief Prayuth Chan-ocha, who is now the outgoing prime minister.

It is widely speculated Thaksin returned out of hope that a friendly government will reduce his sentence, although he has said his decision had nothing to do with the Pheu Thai party's bid for power and that he was ready to follow the legal process. The outgoing government has said Thaksin can request a royal pardon like any other inmate.

World

Poland says Russia moving short-range nuclear weapons to Belarus

WARSAW, Poland (AP)—Poland's President Andrzej Duda confirmed Tuesday that Russia has begun shifting some short-range nuclear weapons to neighboring Belarus, a move that he said will change the security architecture of the region and the entire NATO military alliance.

Both Russian President Vladimir Putin and his Belarusian counterpart Alexander Lukashenko said last month that Moscow had already shipped some of its tactical nuclear weapons to Belarus after announcing the plan in March. The U.S. and NATO haven't confirmed the move.

NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg denounced Moscow's rhetoric as "dangerous and reckless," but said in July that the alliance hadn't seen any change in Russia's nuclear posture.

Tactical nuclear weapons are intended for use on the battlefield and have a short range and a low yield compared with much more powerful nuclear warheads fitted to long-range missiles. Russia said it would maintain control over those it sends to Belarus.

Officials in Moscow and Minsk have said that the warheads could be carried by Belarusian Su-25 ground attack jets or fitted to short-range Iskander missiles.

Duda made his comments at a joint news conference with visiting Portuguese President Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa.

"I was telling President (de Sousa) about the implementation of the declarations by Vladimir Putin that Russia's tactical nuclear weapons will be moved to the territory of Belarus," Duda said. "Indeed, this process is taking place, we are seeing that."

Duda gave no details, but said that in an "obvious way it is changing the architecture of security in our part of Europe."

"It is changing the architecture of security in our immediate neighborhood, but also of the eastern flank of NATO, at the same time. So in fact it is changing the situation for all of the alliance," he said.

Lukashenko said that hosting Russian nuclear weapons in his country is meant to deter aggression by NATO member Poland, even though Warsaw has made no such threats. Poland is offering neighbor Ukraine military, humanitarian and political backing in its struggle against Russia's invasion and is taking part in international sanctions on Russia and Belarus.

Duda also hailed the recent approval by the U.S. State Department of the potential sale of 96 Boeing AH-64E Apache helicopters to Poland that would lead to a huge boost in Poland's and NATO's defense potential and was a sign of special relations between Washington and Warsaw.

De Sousa pledged continuing support for Ukraine's struggle and for other countries in the region, saying the situation on Europe's eastern borders is as important to Portugal as that in its own neighborhood.

"We are united, we stand in solidarity, without any hesitations and I have duly taken note of the Polish concerns over what may be understood as the need to be closely watching any moves that may question the eastern borders of the European Union or of NATO," de Sousa said.

Thousands of discouraged migrants are stranded in Niger

NIAMEY, Niger (AP)–After three months of crossing the desert and then watching other migrants die at sea in his failed attempt to reach Europe, Sahr John Yambasu gave up on getting across the Mediterranean and decided to go back home.

The 29-year-old from Sierra Leone reached Niger in June on his return journey, but United Nations officials said he had to wait for packed migrant centers to empty before he could be repatriated.

Then mutinous soldiers toppled Niger's president a few weeks later, bringing regional tensions and the shuttering of the borders. Yambasu was trapped.

He is one of nearly 7,000 discouraged migrants trying to get home elsewhere in Africa that the U.N. estimates have been stranded in Niger since late July when members of the presidential guard overthrew the country's democratically elected president, Mohamad Bazoum. Niger's junta closed its airspace and regional countries closed border crossings as part of economic and travel sanctions, making it hard for people to leave.

Niger is an important route both for Africans trying to reach Libya as a jumping off spot to cross the Mediterranean to Europe and those who are returning to their homes with help from the United Nations.

Yambasu and others like him are unsure when they will be able to leave.

"I feel sad because it's a country that I don't belong to. It's not easy," Yambasu said.

Recounting his story, he said he left Sierra Leone in June because of political unrest and was hoping to reach Germany. He got rides across the region until arriving in Libya, where he boarded a boat with some 200 other migrants. The boat spent days at sea, with some people dying onboard before it was intercepted by Libya's coast guard and taken back to Libya.

That was enough for him and he headed for home. Helped by aid groups, he made it as far as Niger but has been unable to go farther.

U.N. officials estimate about 1,800 in Yambasu's predicament are living on Niger's streets because centers run by the International Organization for Migration are too crowded to take in more. The centers hold about 5,000 people trying to get home.

The U.N. agency had been assisting approximately 1,250 people a month return to their countries this year. But the closure of borders and airspace has forced it to temporarily suspend returns and its centers are now jammed at 14% over capacity, said Paola Pace, acting interim chief of mission for the agency in Niger.

"This situation poses challenges for migrants as migrants staying in these centers may experience heightened stress and uncertainty with limited prospects for voluntary return and already crowded facilities," she said.

Pace worries the stall in the transiting of Africans seeking to get home could increase exploitation of vulnerable people by traffickers and smugglers who normally focus on individuals trying to migrate to Europe.

Environment

Swiss glaciers under threat again as heat wave drives temps to record highs

GENEVA (AP)—The Swiss weather service said Monday a heat wave has driven the zero-degree Celsius level to its highest altitude since recordings on it in Switzerland began nearly 70 years ago, an ominous new sign for the country's vaunted glaciers.

MeteoSwiss says the zero-degree isotherm level reached 5,298 meters (17,381 feet) above sea level over Switzerland overnight Sunday to Monday. All of Switzerland's snow-capped Alpine peaks—the highest being the 4,634-meter (15,203-foot) Monte Rosa summit—had air temperatures over zero Celsius (32 F) where water freezes to ice, raising prospects of a thaw.

Even Mont Blanc, Europe's highest mountain along the Italian-French border at some 4,809 meters (15,800 feet), is affected, the weather agency said based on readings from its weather balloons.

AP
A team member of Swiss Federal Institute of Technology glaciologist and head of the Swiss measurement network 'Glamos', Matthias Huss, passes the Rhone Glacier covered by sheets near Goms, Switzerland, on June 16, 2023.

The new high altitude eclipsed a previous record set in July 2022, a year that experts say was particularly devastating for the glaciers of Switzerland. Readings have been taken on the zero-degree altitude level since 1954.

"An exceptionally powerful anticyclone and warm air of subtropical origin are currently ensuring scorching weather over the country," MeteoSwiss said on its website, adding that many measuring stations in Switzerland have set new temperature records in the second half of August.

MeteoSwiss meterologist Mikhaël Schwander said it marked only the third time such readings had been tallied above 5,000 meters—and that the level was generally around 3,500 to 4,000 meters in a typical summer.

"With a zero-degree isotherm far above 5,000m (meters above sea level), all glaciers in the Alps are exposed to melt—up to their highest altitudes," said Daniel Farinotti, a glaciologist at the federal technical university in Zurich, ETHZ, in an email. "Such events are rare and detrimental to the glaciers' health, as they live from snow being accumulated at high altitudes."

"If such conditions persist in the longer term, glaciers are set to be lost irreversibly," he said.

A Swiss study last year found that the country's 1,400-odd glaciers—the most in Europe—had lost more than half their total volume since the early 1930s, including a 12-percent decline over the previous six years alone.

Dangerous fungus is becoming more prevalent. Scientists think climate change may be to blame

SEATTLE (AP)—In 2016, hospitals in New York state identified a rare and dangerous fungal infection never before found in the United States. Research laboratories quickly mobilized to review historical specimens and found the fungus had been present in the country since at least 2013.

In the years since, New York City has emerged as ground zero for Candida auris infections. And until 2021, the state recorded the most confirmed cases in the country year after year, even as the illness has spread to other places, according to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) data analyzed by The Associated Press.

Candida auris is a globally emerging public health threat that can cause severe illness, including bloodstream, wound and respiratory infections. In a small group of patients in the United States, its mortality rate was estimated at 30% to 60%, according to the CDC, and many of those patients had other underlying conditions. Candida auris is a particular risk in healthcare settings for people already with serious medical problems.

Last year, the most cases were found in Nevada and California, but the fungus was identified clinically in patients in 29 states. New York state remains a major hotspot.

A prominent theory for the sudden explosion of Candida auris, which was not found in humans anywhere until 2009, is climate change.

■■■

Humans and other mammals have warmer body temperatures than most fungal pathogens can tolerate, so have historically been protected from most infections. However, rising temperatures can allow fungi to develop tolerance to warmer environments, and over time humans may lose resistance. Some researchers think this is what is already happening with Candida auris.

The pathogen emerged spontaneously 14 years ago on three continents, in Venezuela, India, and South Africa. Fungal disease expert Arturo Casadevall, a microbiologist, immunologist and professor at Johns Hopkins University, said this was puzzling, because the climates in these places are quite different.

"We have tremendous protection against environmental fungi because of our temperature. However, if the world is getting warmer and the fungi begin to adapt to higher temperatures as well, some ... are going to reach what I call the temperature barrier," Casadevall said, referring to the way mammals' warm body temperatures historically protected them.

When Candida auris was first spreading, said Meghan Marie Lyman, a CDC medical epidemiologist for the mycotic diseases branch, the cases were linked to people who had traveled to the U.S. from other places. Now, most cases are acquired locally—generally spreading among patients in healthcare settings.

In the U.S., there were 2,377 confirmed clinical cases diagnosed last year—an increase of over 1,200% since 2017. But Candida auris is becoming a global problem. In Europe, a survey last year found case numbers nearly doubled from 2020 to 2021.

"The number of cases has increased, but also the geographic distribution has increased," Lyman said. She noted that while screenings and surveillance have improved, the skyrocketing case numbers do reflect a true increase.

In March, a CDC press release noted the seriousness of the problem, citing the pathogen's resistance to traditional antifungal treatments and the alarming rate of its spread. Public health agencies are focused primarily on strategies to urgently mitigate transmission in healthcare settings.

"It's kind of an active fire they're trying to put out," Lyman said.

Dr. Luis Ostrosky, a professor of infectious diseases at McGovern Medical School at UTHealth Houston, thinks Candida auris is "kind of our nightmare scenario."

"It's a potentially multidrug resistant pathogen with the ability to spread very efficiently in healthcare settings," he said. "We've never had a pathogen like this in the fungal infection area."

It is nearly always resistant to the most common class of antifungal medication, and is sometimes also resistant to another medication primarily used for severe catheter fungal infections in hospitals.

"I've encountered cases where I'm sitting down with the family and telling them we have nothing that works for this infection your loved one has," Ostrosky said.

Ostrotsky has treated about 10 patients with the fungal infection but has consulted on many more. He said he has seen it spread through an entire ICU in two weeks.

Researchers, academics, and public health groups are discussing and investigating theories that explain the emergence of Candida auris. Ostrosky said that climate change is the most widely accepted one.

The CDC's Lyman said it's possible the fungus was always among the microorganisms that live in the human body, but because it wasn't causing infection, no one investigated until it recently started causing health problems. She also said there are reports of the fungus in the natural environment—including soil and wetlands—but environmental sampling has been limited, and it's unclear whether those discoveries are downstream effects from humans.

"There are also a lot of questions about there being increased contact with humans and intrusion of humans into nature, and there have been a lot of changes in the environment, and the use of fungi in agriculture," she said. "These things may have allowed Candida auris to escape into a new environment or broaden its niche."

Wherever and however it originated, the fungus poses a significant threat to human health, researchers say. Immunocompromised patients in hospitals are most at risk, but so are people in long-term care centers and nursing homes, which generally have less access to diagnostics and infection control experts.

Candida auris is not only challenging to treat, but also difficult to diagnose. It is quite rare and many clinicians are not aware it exists.

Common symptoms of infection include sepsis, fever, and low blood pressure, which all can have many causes. The fungus is diagnosed with a blood test. Blood is placed in a nutrient-rich medium to allow any infectious organism to grow and become more detectable.

But Ostrosky notes this misses about half the cases. "Our gold standard is a little bit better than flipping a coin," he said, adding there is a newer technology that improves bloodstream detection but it's expensive and not widely available in hospitals.

Beyond the increase in cases, popular culture has helped increase awareness of fungal infections. A popular HBO series, "The Last of Us," is a drama about the survivors of a fungal outbreak. A fungal infection that can transform humans into zombies is a work of fiction, but addressing climate change, which is altering the kinds of diseases seriously threatening human health, is a real world challenge.

"I think the way to think about how global warming is putting selection pressure on microbes is to think about how many more really hot days we are experiencing," said Casadevall of Johns Hopkins. "Each day at (100 degrees Fahrenheit, or 37.7 degrees Celsius) provides a selection event for all microbes affected—and the more days when high temperatures are experienced, the greater probability that some will adapt and survive."

"We've been flying under the radar for decades in mycology because fungal infections didn't used to be frequently seen," said Ostrosky of UTHealth Houston.

This story is part of a collaboration between The Associated Press and Grist exploring the intersection of climate change and infectious diseases.

Life & Style

'GET OUT OF MY HOUSE!'

Video shows 98-year-old mother of Kansas publisher upset amid raid

MARION, Kan. (AP)— Newly released video shows the 98-year-old mother of a Kansas newspaper publisher confronting police officers as they searched her home in a raid that has drawn national scrutiny, at one point demanding: "Get out of my house!"

Video released by the newspaper Monday shows Joan Meyer shouting at the six officers inside the Marion, Kansas, home she shared with her son, Marion County Record Editor and Publisher Eric Meyer. Standing with the aid of a walker and dressed in a long robe or gown and slippers, she seems visibly upset.

"Get out of my house ... I don't want you in my house!" she said at one point. "Don't touch any of that stuff! This is my house!" she said at another.

The raids of the newspaper and the homes of the Meyers and a City Council member happened on Aug. 11, after a local restaurant owner accused the newspaper of illegally accessing information about her. Joan Meyer died a day later. Her son said he believes that the stress contributed to her death.

A prosecutor said later that there was insufficient evidence to justify the raids, and some of the seized computers and cellphones have been returned. Meanwhile, the initial online search of a state website that the police chief cited to justify the raid was legal, a spokesperson for the agency that maintains the site said Monday.

The Kansas Bureau of Investigation continues to examine the newspaper's actions.

Legal experts believe the police raid on the newspaper violated a federal privacy law or a state law shielding journalists from having to identify sources or to turn over unpublished material to law enforcement.

AP

This screen grab of security camera footage provided by Eric Meyer shows his mother, Joan Meyer, ordering police officers to get out of her house as they searched it on Aug. 11, 2023, in Marion, Kan.

Two state lawmakers, Kansas House Democratic Leader Vic Miller, and Democratic state Rep. Jason Probst, a former newspaper reporter and editor in Hutchinson, about 50 miles (80 kilometers) southwest of Marion, said they plan to pursue legislation dealing with search warrants next year but are looking for other ideas as well.

"I don't want this to fade away until we've addressed it," Miller said during a Statehouse news conference.

The raid on the Record put it and its hometown of around 1,900 residents about 150 miles (241 kilometers) southwest of Kansas City in the center of a debate about press freedoms protected by the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution and Kansas' Bill of Rights. It also exposed divisions in the town over local politics and the newspaper's coverage of the community, and put an intense spotlight on Police Chief Gideon Cody, who led the raids after the newspaper had asked questions about his background.

"As far as Chief Cody goes, he can take his high horse he brought into this community and giddy-up on out of town," Darvin Markley, a Marion resident, said during a Monday afternoon City Council meeting. "The man needs to go. He needs to be fired."

Kerry Washington, Martin Sheen shout for solidarity among Hollywood strikers, others

LOS ANGELES (AP)— Kerry Washington and Martin Sheen, a pair of fictional former politicos, turned Hollywood's strikes into a rousing campaign rally Tuesday with speeches celebrating unity across the industry and with labor at large.

"We are here because we know that unions matter," said Washington, who played a political fixer on ABC's "Scandal." "Not only do we have solidarity within our union, we have solidarity between our unions, because we are workers."

The rally outside Disney Studios in Burbank, California, coming more than a month into a strike by Hollywood actors and more than three months into a strike by screenwriters, was meant to highlight their alliance with the industry's other guilds and the nation's other unions, including the Teamsters and the AFL-CIO.

"The audacity of these studios to say they can't afford to pay their workers after they make billions in profits is utterly ridiculous," Los Angeles County Federation of Labor President Yvonne Wheeler told the crowd. She added a dig at Disney's CEO, who has become a target of strikers. "But despite their money, they can't buy this kind of solidarity. Tell Bob Iger that."

Sheen, who played the president for seven seasons on "The West Wing," was joined by most of the show's main cast members on the stage as he emphasized that the toll being taken as the strikes stretch out.

"Clearly this union has found something worth fighting for, and it is very costly," Sheen said. "If this were not so we would be left to question its value."

Washington also sought to highlight that high-profile guild members like her were once actors who struggled to find work and make a living, as the vast majority of members still are. She ran through the issues at the heart of both strikes, including compensation and studios and streaming services using artificial intelligence in place of actors and writers.

"We deserve to be able to be paid a fair wage. We deserve to have access to healthcare. We deserve to be free from machines pretending to be us," Washington said. "The dream of being working artist, the dream of making a living doing what we want to do, should not be impossible."

Washington and others carefully avoided saying the names of the shows that made them famous, in observation of strike rules against promotion of studio projects.

The alliance of studios, streaming services and production companies that are the opposition in the strikes says it offered fair contracts to both unions before talks broke off that included unprecedented updates in pay and protections against AI.

Talks have restarted between the studios and writers, who went on strike May 2, though progress has been slow. There have been no negotiations with actors since they went on strike July 14.

The rally included many members and leaders of other Hollywood unions that unlike the striking guilds were able to make deals with the studios, including the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees, which represents most Hollywood crew members and struck an 11th hour deal to avoid a strike in 2021. That contract expires next year.

Boyfriend in no hurry to walk down the aisle

DEAR ABBY: I'm 44, and I have been dating a wonderful man for the last year and a half. He's 44 as well. He has a nice home and job and has 50/50 custody of his three children, who adore me. I'm good to them, and we all get along well, just like a family.

The problem is, he goes back and forth about marriage. I have made it clear that, although I have no desire to pressure him, I do want to be married again one day. I said I'd rather be let go than led on. He said he isn't sure, and some days he says he may never remarry.

The last time we talked about it, he said it's a "possibility," but he didn't want to be pressured—it has to be his idea. How long should I wait until I say enough is enough? I'm not getting any younger.

FIXED ON MARRIAGE

DEAR FIXED: When was the last time you had this discussion? You have described a man who is comfortable with things just the way they are. A year and a half is a reasonable amount of time to decide whether a relationship is serious enough to lead to something more.

Give him six more months, during which you do not mention the word "marriage." By then, you will have invested two years. After that, ask if he has made up his mind about the two of you being married, and if his answer is anything less than yes, move on.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: I have a family issue concerning the recent, untimely death of my only (younger) brother, who died of pneumonia in Georgia. His wife had him cremated the following day instead of having a funeral. She didn't inform his immediate family about it until it was over. Was that legal? And was it the right thing to do?

NO FAMILY CLOSURE

DEAR N.F.C: Please accept my sympathy for the passing of your younger brother. When the sibling is younger, the loss can be particularly poignant.

When a married individual dies, it is legal for the surviving spouse to determine what will happen to their loved one's remains.

We don't know if the subject of funerals, memorials, burials or cremations was ever discussed between your brother and his wife. If you are wondering, rather than judge her, ask her. He may have expressed a wish not to be put into the ground, or he may have been cremated for financial reasons. While you are at it, ask if she's planning any kind of memorial. If she isn't planning anything, you may want to host one for yourselves.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: Do I give my daughter her baby book now that she's in her 40s? Does the same answer apply to a son? I just need to know if it's something a parent does.

DEAR ABBY

By Abigail Van Buren
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

WONDERING MOM

DEAR WONDERING: Some parents give their children these mementos when they are downsizing their homes. Others offer it to them once they marry, settle down or prove they are responsible enough that it won't be lost. Of course, before bestowing such a gift, it would be prudent to ASK if it would be welcomed.

■■■

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable – and most frequently requested – poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

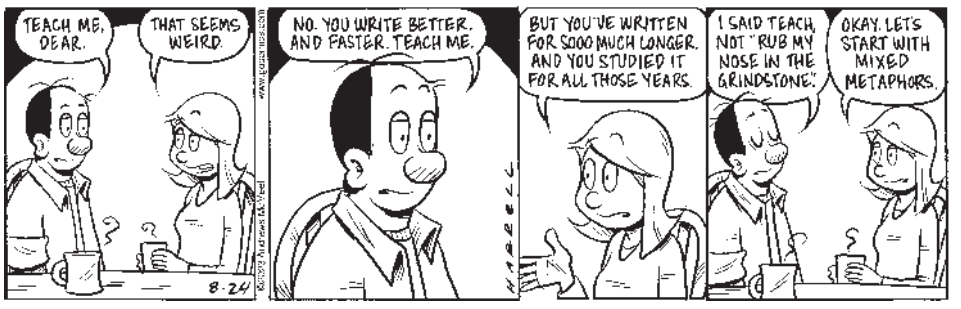
OH, MOM? I JUST REMEMBERED. SOME LADY CALLED YOU ABOUT AN HOUR AGO.
DID YOU GET HER NAME AND NUMBER?
NO...
WELL HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO CALL HER BACK?!
YOU DON'T NEED TO. SHE'S STILL ON THE LINE.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

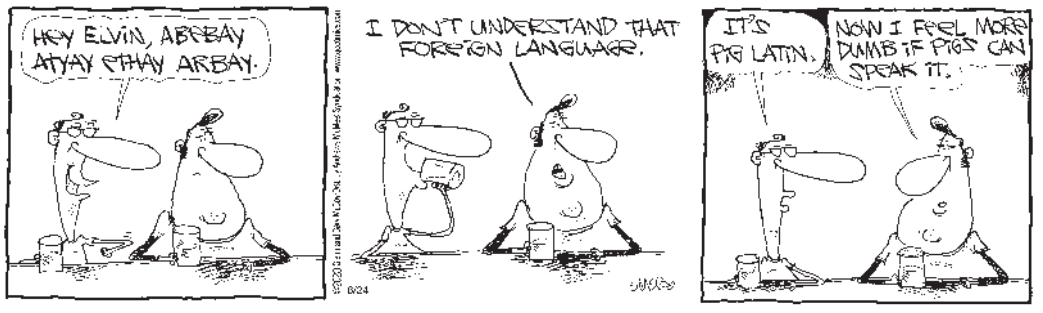
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


TEACH ME, DEAR.
THAT SEEMS WEIRD.
NO. YOU WRITE BETTER. AND FASTER. TEACH ME.
BUT YOU'VE WRITTEN FOR SOOO MUCH LONGER. AND YOU STUDIED IT FOR ALL THOSE YEARS.
I SAID TEACH, NOT "RUB MY NOSE IN THE GRINDSTONE."
OKAY. LET'S START WITH MIXED METAPHORS.
8-24

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


HEY ELVIN, ABBBAY ATYAY ETHAY ARBAY.
I DON'T UNDERSTAND THAT FOREIGN LANGUAGE.
IT'S PIG LATIN.
NOW I FEEL MORE DUMB IF PIGS CAN SPEAK IT.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Professional gp.
5 Request
8 — -pedi
12 Arizona tribe
13 Director Spike
14 "East of Eden" son
15 Mr. Guinness
16 Long, crosser
17 "No harm done"
18 Turn into
20 Vehement protest
22 Nonclerical
23 Small battery
24 Scottish hillside
27 Reed instrument
32 Poetic contraction
33 Tire filler
34 "Levitating" singer Lipa
35 Inventor, at times
38 Greek pita sandwich
39 106, in old Rome
40 Turkish title
42 Comedian Mindy of "The Office"
45 More comfy
49 Apple computer
50 — Jima
52 Waffle brand
53 Price
54 Abysmal
55 Piglet's pop
56 Smooch
57 CBS logo
58 Paris airport

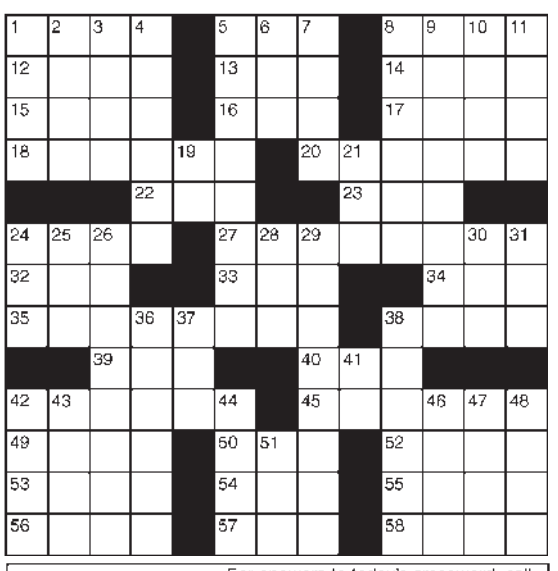
DOWN

1 Melville captain
2 Only
3 Detail, in short
4 Kidman of "The Hours"
5 Stray feline
6 Salty expanse
7 Low-carb diet
8 Rum cocktail
9 Attractive escort
10 Former queen of Jordan
11 Jet-black
19 Cellist Yo-Yo
21 Former Mideast org.
24 Conk on the head
25 "The Crying Game" actor
26 Drawing course, say
28 Recline
29 Three digits after 1
30 Where Lux. is
31 Eastern "way"
36 Ousts
37 Diarist Anais
38 Garden pavilion
41 "Monopoly" square
42 Boot
43 Mine, to Marcel
44 Taunt
46 Composer Stravinsky
47 Alike (Fr.)
48 Golfer McIlroy
51 Method

Solution time: 24 mins.

B	R	I	T	■	D	O	G	■	P	S	A	T
O	A	T	H	■	U	R	L	■	L	O	C	H
S	N	O	W	S	H	O	E	■	A	F	R	O
S	T	R	A	P	■	■	E	D	I	T	O	R
■	■	■	I	Y	A	N	■	E	I	S	■	■
P	A	S	T	■	R	■	O	S	■	H	A	G
B	A	I	I	■	B	L	E	A	K	■	O	I	L
S	A	O	■	D	O	C	S	■	I	C	R	O
■	■	E	T	A	■	E	P	E	E	■	■	■
A	L	L	O	Y	S	■	■	V	E	R	D	E
P	E	A	R	■	S	H	O	E	H	O	R	N
P	A	C	T	■	T	U	X	■	A	C	E	D
I	H	E	E	■	S	K	O	■	W	A	G	S

Yesterday's answer 8-24



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Rupert Grint, 35; John Green, 46; Dave Chappelle, 50; Cal Ripken Jr., 63.

Happy Birthday: Take control of your life and set boundaries that help you distance yourself from anyone who takes advantage of your generosity. Surround yourself with straight shooters who aren't extravagant or tempt you with pie-in-the-sky ideas and lavish entertainment. Choose the path that puts your mind at ease and money in the bank. Ease your stress instead of adding to it, and you'll make better decisions. Your numbers are 3, 14, 22, 27, 35, 41, 44.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Soothe your soul, rid yourself of stress and do whatever it takes to achieve inner peace. Refuse to let others interfere or cause you to second-guess yourself. Trust your judgment and protect yourself from those who want to limit or control you. ✪✪✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Situations will not be transparent. Use your intelligence, intuition and experience to help decide who you can trust. Words mean nothing if someone doesn't honor their promises. It's a two-way street dealing with relationships. Take your time; you'll know when the moment is right. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Fix your place, add to your comfort and spend time with someone you love. Don't listen to hearsay or someone gossiping or using manipulative tactics to make you feel insecure. Pay more attention to what and who makes you happy. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Call on the people you know you can count on, and you'll get the support and help you need to reach your goal. A joint venture will make your plans more accessible and cost-efficient if you refuse to let a fast-talking sales pitch interfere. ✪✪✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Pay attention. Don't make snap decisions regarding money matters or joint ventures. Invest time in perfecting yourself and what you have to offer. Putting your best foot forward will show others you are a leader, not a follower. Choose a safe and healthy lifestyle. ✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Take a step back and observe. What you discover will change how you move forward. Substantiate information you receive before using it or passing it along. The proper knowledge will give you the mindset to carry on with confidence and success. ✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Use your power of persuasion, and you'll get all the help you need. Use your intelligence to whittle costs and make appropriate adjustments to ensure success. Pay attention to what's happening around you, and you'll avoid a costly repair. Cap overindulgence. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* A proposal will entice you. Get the lowdown before you get involved in something likely to waste your time and cause problems in other areas of your life. A reasonable balance between work and play will help keep the peace. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Sum up your situation and protect against anyone who leads you astray. Get the facts, deal with controversy and keep moving forward. Don't hang on to what's no longer relevant or people who hold you back. Make personal gain and self-love your goal. ✪✪✪

CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Make a move. You have what it takes to reach your goal; don't dawdle or replace confidence with doubt. Trust and believe in yourself and forge ahead without trepidation. Gather the facts and refuse to let your emotions or insecurities stand in your way. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Nurturing meaningful relationships will lead to unexpected long-term benefits. Use your imagination, but don't get carried away with ideas that aren't logistically feasible. Balance and integrity will make a difference in how things unfold. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Look at the possibilities and the cost involved before you take on something new to you. Follow the information highway until you feel confident you have exhausted every detail. Consider partnering with someone who has just as much to contribute as you. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are wise, detailed and forceful. You are generous and open-minded.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		3	2	8				5
		2	4					
5	8	1				2		9
		9	3	4			5	
7			5	1			3	
3	4					7		
	3						9	1
6						5		
1				2	3	8	7	

Difficulty: ★★★ 8/24

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

3	4	1	7	8	6	2	5	9
5	6	8	1	2	9	7	4	3
9	7	2	3	4	5	8	1	6
7	3	6	9	1	4	5	8	2
1	2	4	6	5	8	9	3	7
8	9	5	2	3	7	4	6	1
4	1	9	5	6	2	3	7	8
6	5	7	8	9	3	1	2	4
2	8	3	4	7	1	6	9	5

Difficulty: ★★★ 8/24

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WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

CULVERTS **Solution: 9 letters**

S	O	L	I	D	L	I	O	S	E	M	U	L	O	V
E	Z	I	N	C	N	I	A	T	N	U	O	F	L	E
V	K	O	H	L	Y	B	A	R	R	E	L	A	D	L
A	P	O	E	E	K	C	A	R	T	O	K	Ⓜ	P	O
W	K	T	O	E	N	O	T	S	O	E	R	Ⓐ	A	C
A	T	C	A	R	H	G	U	D	R	L	R	Ⓓ	S	I
L	N	R	O	C	B	A	I	U	A	K	U	P	S	T
L	E	O	R	R	H	R	T	N	O	R	I	M	A	Y
A	M	A	I	X	E	C	D	N	E	P	L	A	G	A
I	N	D	E	D	A	S	S	T	E	E	L	E	E	W
R	G	X	D	F	C	N	I	A	R	D	R	R	S	L
E	I	A	U	A	L	L	A	T	S	N	I	T	I	I
T	L	N	P	E	R	U	T	C	U	R	T	S	C	A
A	A	E	E	F	I	L	D	L	I	W	A	T	E	R
M	U	N	I	M	U	L	A	Q	U	A	T	I	C	R

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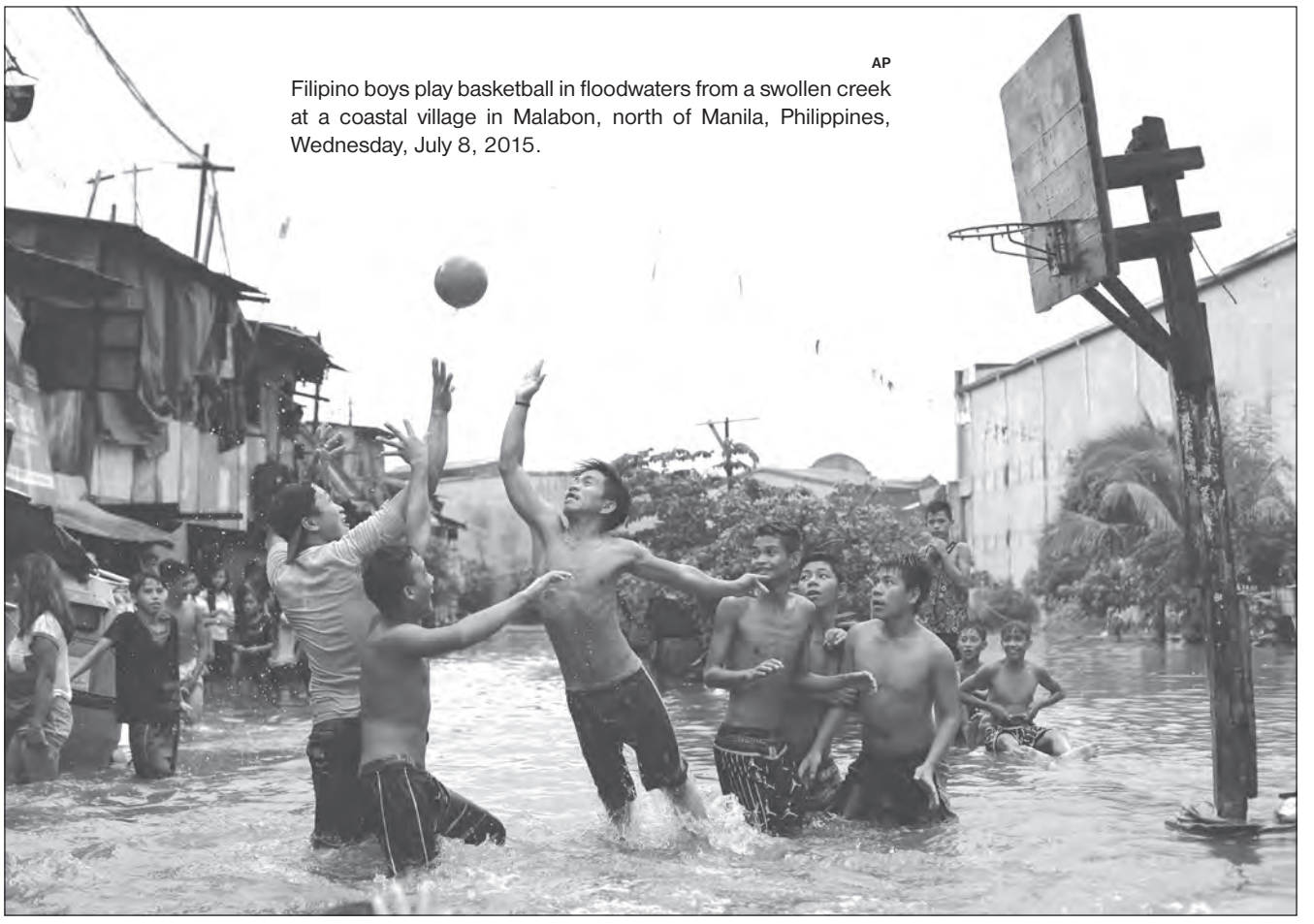
Alignment, Aluminum, Aquatic, Arch, Barrel, Bridge, Brook, Dam, Drain, Engineer, Exhaust, Exit, Flood, Fountain, Inlet, Install, Iron, Ladder, Lake, Landscape, Manufacture, Material, Park, Passages, Pipe, Pond, Railway, Resident, Road, Rock, Soil, Solid, Steel, Stone, Stream, Structure, Track, Velocity, Volume, Wall, Water, Waves, Wildlife, Zinc

Yesterday's Answer: Meditate

The NEW **Treasury 54** can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480. (In Canada, call 1-855-232-2367)

In hoops-crazed Philippines, World Cup will be shining moment



AP

Filipino boys play basketball in floodwaters from a swollen creek at a coastal village in Malabon, north of Manila, Philippines, Wednesday, July 8, 2015.

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Considering that about 110 million people live in the Philippines, it's not feasible to expect that they all would be basketball fans.

"But it's close," said Tim Cone, the country's top professional coach.

And that might not be an understatement, either.

Basketball's World Cup starts on Friday, spread out over three nations—the Philippines, Japan and Indonesia. It'll be centered in Manila, where the medal rounds will be held in early September, where the favored U.S. team will play all its games in the event and where fans have been waiting for years for this chance at seeing some of the game's biggest names competing in their city.

"It's so for big players to come here, unlike China. Everyone comes there," said Inigo Herrera, 25, who works in sales for his family's Manila business. "For us, it's like a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. If this is your first time in the Philippines and you go around, you will see kids playing basketball everywhere. Everywhere."

The Americans arrived on Tuesday morning (Monday night EDT) in Manila. They were greeted by local and tournament officials at the airport, had fans on motorcycles waving at the motorcade as their buses drove away, and were greeted at their hotel by more fans.

Herrera was among those who stood in the lobby for just a glimpse of the Americans.

"I have goosebumps right now," another of Herrera's friends, RJ Tan, said as he held an Anthony Edwards jersey. And yes, he did have goosebumps, even several minutes after the Americans walked past him to get to the elevators leading to their rooms after about 10 hours of flying from Abu Dhabi.

The home nation—which has declared Friday a national holiday of sorts, closing schools and some businesses to mark the occasion—is in the World Cup and has its sights on history. While there is little chance of a magical run by the Philippines to win the tournament, there is an effort to get at least 32,617 fans to the Philippines' first game in the tournament and break the World Cup attendance record set at Toronto in 1994 when the U.S. rolled past Russia in the gold-medal game.

"I had the good fortune of visiting Manila in 1996," USA Basketball men's national team managing director Grant Hill said. "The love for the game there is absolutely incredible."

FIBA secretary general Andreas Zagklis was asked last week about the excitement level that the Philippines has shown for the World Cup.

His response: "You have not seen anything yet."

Basketball is a passion in the Philippines. There are about 25,000 indoor courts in the country, countless outdoor courts—they're everywhere, with rims even fashioned out of barbed wire in some places. Data collected by the NBA shows that the league's online store can send deliveries to 215 cities and provinces in the Philippines; there isn't one place on that list where the league hasn't had someone buy a jersey or some other official merchandise.

"It is the No. 1 sport in the country and you can't definitively say that about basketball in the United States or anywhere else," said Miami Heat coach Erik Spoelstra, an assistant coach on the U.S. team this summer and a national hero in the Philippines — his mother is Filipina. "There's such great passion for the sport. I've flown into Manila with my staff and some of my friends, and on the ride from the airport, anywhere you look you can see groups of kids playing on a makeshift basket on a telephone pole, on the side of a building, in 3 feet of rainwater.

"It's a powerful visual of seeing what you would think would be extreme poverty, which it is, and the juxtaposition of seeing great joyfulness of people coming together and playing basketball in a way that doesn't exist anyplace else."

Legend says that American teachers brought basketball to the Philippines for the first time around the turn of the 20th century, and it immediately took off. Unlike other parts of Asia, where baseball or soccer can reign supreme, basketball stands alone in the Philippines. Its only real challenger in recent years has been boxing, simply because of Manny Pacquiao—who won 12 world championships in eight weight divisions. Pacquiao's popularity is such that he even served 12 years in politics in his homeland.

But the basketball bug even found him: The 5-foot-5 Pacquiao has played and coached in the Philippines Basketball Association, the nation's top pro league.

"People are raised on basketball from the age of 2 and 3 years old," said Cone, whose teams have won more than two dozen league titles in the Philippines. "All they do is play one sport and it's played throughout the year. We have three seasons: rainy season, wet season and basketball season, and we play basketball through it all. That's the passion. We always say we have three things in the Philippines: sport, basketball and politics."

Unlike politics, basketball seems to be the thing that everyone can agree on. The NBA has been airing games there for nearly a half-century, and staged one of its first ever international exhibition games in the Philippines—sending the then-Washington Bullets over to play a team of Philippine All-Stars.

If New York's heartbeat of outdoor basketball is Rucker Park, then Manila's is Tenement Court—located in the courtyard between several tenement buildings. That spot, with a court painted in the World Cup colors and with the logo, was where podcaster and former NBA TV personality Leigh Ellis picked for a pickup game a few days ago. Ellis is touring the world, throwing out invites on social media and telling fans to join him for games as pursues a mission to play pickup in all corners of the globe and spin it into a docuseries.

Manila did not disappoint.

"Because from my experiences of traveling across several continents and countries playing pickup, I've encountered people everywhere who love and cherish basketball," Ellis said. "But in the Philippines, I could have been convinced that the game was invented there, or that they at least had some sort of ownership of it. Such was their passion for the sport."

There are 32 teams in the World Cup; half will play their first- and second-round games in Manila, while eight teams will play first in Jakarta and eight others will open in Okinawa. For the final week of the tournament, all the title contenders will be in Manila and the gold-medal game happens there Sept. 10.

Knicks sue Raptors, accusing rival of using ex-employee as 'mole' to steal scouting secrets

NEW YORK (AP)—The New York Knicks sued the Toronto Raptors, their new head coach and a former Knicks scouting employee on Monday, saying the defendants conspired to steal thousands of videos and other scouting secrets over the past few weeks.

The lawsuit in Manhattan federal court seeks unspecified damages and a ban on the further spread of the Knicks' trade secrets. The lawsuit claimed that secrets including scouting and play frequency reports, along with a prep book and a link to valuable software, had been downloaded thousands of times by Raptors employees.

"This material consists of secret, proprietary information critical to the Knicks' efforts to maintain a competitive advantage over their rivals, including the Raptors," the lawsuit said.

The Knicks said the theft occurred in recent weeks after the Raptors hired and recruited "a mole" within the Knicks organization. The lawsuit identified him as Ikechukwu Azotam, who since August 2021 had directed the planning, organizing and distribution of all video scouting responsibilities for the Knicks' coaching staff.

They blamed Raptors head coach Darko Rajakovic, hired in June, along with player development coach Noah Lewis, the Raptors' parent company — Maple Leaf Sports & Entertainment Ltd. — and 10 unidentified Raptors employees, saying that they received proprietary information and sometimes directed Azotam to misuse his access to Knicks information.

In a statement Monday, the Raptors and its parent company said it "strongly denies any involvement in the matters alleged."

According to the statement, Maple Leaf Sports & Entertainment and the Raptors were notified by the owner of the Knicks on Thursday about the allegations, but they had not yet been served a lawsuit.

"MLSE responded promptly, making clear our intention to conduct an internal investigation and to fully cooperate," the statement said. "MLSE and the Toronto Raptors will reserve further comment until this matter has been resolved to the satisfaction of both parties."

An email address listed in the lawsuit for Azotam with the Raptors was not accepting emails late Monday.

In a statement, Madison Square Garden Sports said it sued after Azotam took thousands of proprietary files with him to his new position with the Raptors, including a prep book for the 2022-2023 season.

"Given the clear violation of our employment agreement, criminal and civil law, we were left no choice but to take this action," it added.

Hired in October 2020 as an assistant video coordinator, Azotam was later promoted to the position of director of video analytics/player development assistant, the lawsuit said.

In June, the Raptors began recruiting Azotam to assist their novice head coach in assembling a new coaching and video operations staff, the lawsuit said.

Azotam notified the Knicks in late July that he was leaving. His final day was Aug. 14, and the Knicks' security team identified the theft last Tuesday, the lawsuit said.

In early August, Azotam began to illegally convert and misappropriate the Knicks' confidential and proprietary data, the lawsuit said. On Aug. 11, he sent two emails from his Knicks email address to his new Raptors email address containing "proprietary information with highly confidential material," the lawsuit said.

One email, the lawsuit said, included an advanced scouting report of the Indiana Pacers players with team and player statistics, key plays and play frequency data, specific player tendencies and scouting, strategy analyses and other information.

The second email contained an advanced scouting report of the Denver Nuggets with information similar to the analysis of the Indiana Pacers, the lawsuit said.

The lawsuit said Azotam also passed along a play frequency report for the Dallas Mavericks and other information the Knicks had used to prepare to play the Mavericks.

The lawsuit said the Raptors employees had directed Azotam to misuse his access to a Knicks subscription to Synergy Sports to create and transfer for their use over 3,000 files consisting of film information and data, including 3,358 video files.

The Raptors' employees had accessed the stolen files over 2,000 times, the lawsuit said.

Yankees' losing streak hits 9 games for 1st time in 41 years

NEW YORK (AP)—The New York Yankees' losing streak hit nine games for the first time in 41 years as Tommy Kahnle allowed a go-ahead homer to CJ Abrams with two outs in the eighth inning and the Washington Nationals claimed a 2-1 win on Tuesday night.

Winless since beating the Marlins on Aug. 11 in Miami, the Yankees are on their first nine-game skid since Sept. 13-21, 1982—the final month of a 79-win season when they employed three managers (Bob Lemon, Gene Michael and Clyde King).

Abrams snapped a 1-1 tie by hitting a first-pitch changeup from Kahnle (1-2) off the right field foul pole for his 13th homer of the season.

Mason Thompson (4-4) earned the win and Kyle Finnegan picked up his 22nd save in 29 chances.

Carter Kieboom homered in the third for Washington.

AP

Washington Nationals shortstop CJ Abrams (5) celebrates with third base coach Gary Disarcina (10) as he runs the bases on a home run against the New York Yankees during the eighth inning of a baseball game Tuesday, Aug. 22, 2023, in New York.

GUARDIANS 8, DODGERS 3

CLEVELAND (AP)—Kole Calhoun's three-run homer capped a five-run seventh inning as Cleveland sent Los Angeles to just its third loss in the month of August.

The Dodgers are 17-3 in August and 25-10 since the All-Star break.

REDS 4, ANGELS 3

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP)—Graham Ashcraft racked up a career-high 10 strikeouts over seven innings, and Cincinnati spoiled Mike Trout's return to the Los Angeles lineup by scoring three unearned runs in the fifth inning to beat the Angels.

Elly De La Cruz scored the tiebreaking run from first on Spencer Steer's double just moments after Angels rookie first baseman Nolan Schanuel made a two-run error on what should have been an inning-ending grounder by De La Cruz.

Ashcraft (7-8) allowed five hits, although three were solo homers. Alexis Díaz pitched the ninth for his 34th save in 35 chances.

Matt McLain homered for the Reds in the opener of a 10-game West Coast trip.

DIAMONDBACKS 6, RANGERS 3

PHOENIX (AP)—Zac Gallen struck out 11 over six stellar innings, Alek Thomas had a spectacular diving catch on the warning track for the first out of the ninth and Arizona held off skidding Texas.

Tommy Pham extended his hitting streak to 13 games for the D-backs, who swept the two-game series and have won five straight games, helping their cause in a crowded National League wild-card race. They're currently a half-game ahead of the Giants and Reds for the final spot.

The Rangers have lost six straight and are just a half-game ahead of the Astros for first place in the AL West.

Arizona led 6-1 after six innings, but Texas cut the margin to 6-3 in the seventh on Corey Seager's two-run single. The Rangers loaded the bases with one out in the ninth, and closer Paul Sewald struck out Mitch Garver and coaxed a groundout from Travis Jankowski to get his 27th save.

BRAVES 3, METS 2

ATLANTA (AP)—Eddie Rosario hit a two-run homer in the second inning, Marcell Ozuna had a solo shot in the fifth and major league-leading Atlanta held on to beat New York.

The Braves took a 2-0 lead on Rosario's 20th homer. Ozuna made it 3-0 with his 27th homer and third in the last two games.

New York's Daniel Vogelbach connected for a two-run shot to trim the lead to 3-2 in the sixth, but Joe Jiménez, A.J. Minter and closer Raisel Iglesias held the Mets to two hits and one walk over the last three innings as Atlanta snapped a two-game skid.

New York (59-68) had won seven of nine but dropped 23 games back and are in fourth place in the NL East.

MARINERS 6, WHITE SOX 3

CHICAGO (AP)—Josh Rojas hit a two-run homer and six relievers combined for five effective innings, helping Seattle beat Chicago for its season-high eighth straight win.

After Bryan Woo tossed four innings of one-run ball in his return from the injured list, Seattle's bullpen took over. Justin Topa (3-3) got four outs for the win, and Andrés Muñoz earned his eighth save by striking out Luis Robert Jr. with a runner on first.

The Mariners (71-55) moved a season-best 16 games over .500. They stayed in third in the AL West, a half-game back of Houston.

Andrew Benintendi went deep and Andrew Vaughn had two of Chicago's 10 hits, including an RBI single. Mike Clevinger (5-6) allowed four runs and six hits in five innings.

Right before its eighth loss in 10 games, Chicago announced that executive vice president Ken Williams and general manager Rick Hahn had been fired. The White Sox (49-77) began the year with playoff aspirations, but they got off to a 7-21 start and never recovered.

BLUE JAYS 6, ORIOLES 3, 10 INNINGS

BALTIMORE (AP)—Brandon Belt homered on Mike Baumann's first pitch in the 10th inning, Daulton Varsho hit a two-run home run in the second and Toronto defeated Baltimore.

The loss ended the Orioles' three-game winning streak and cut their lead in the AL East over second-place Tampa Bay to two games.

With Bo Bichette on second base as the automatic runner in the 10th, Belt hit a liner into the right-field seats for his 14th homer, the third in two games. The Blue Jays have won five of seven and hit seven home runs in their last two games.

Toronto added a run in the 10th on a wild pitch by Baumann (9-1), the first reliever in Orioles history to win his first nine decisions.

PHILLIES 4, GIANTS 3

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Trea Turner had a two-run single in the ninth inning that bounced off Camilo Doval's glove and into center field, giving Philadelphia a victory over San Francisco.

Philadelphia increased its lead to four games over San Francisco in the National League wild-card race. The Giants have lost 12 of their last 16 games.

Bryce Harper hit his 11th homer of the season and went 2 for 3 with a walk. Craig Kimbrel (7-3) got the victory with an inning of relief.

Thairo Estrada had three hits in the game and Joc Pederson had two for San Francisco. Doval, who entered with 33 saves, saw his record slip to 5-4. Kyle Harrison, San Francisco's top pitching prospect, made his major league debut, going 3 1/3 innings and allowing five hits and two earned runs in a no-decision on 65 pitches.

TIGERS 8, CUBS 6

DETROIT (AP)—Andy Ibañez had his first two-homer game, leading Detroit past Chicago.

Tyler Holton (3-2) got the victory with 1 1/3 innings of relief. Alex Lange pitched the ninth for his 19th save.

Former Tiger Drew Smyly (9-9) took the loss, allowing seven runs on eight hits and three walks in 3 2/3 innings.

Dansby Swanson hit a two-run homer for Chicago.

RAYS 12, ROCKIES 4

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP)—Osleivis Basabe hit a grand slam for his first major league homer and capped a nine-run eighth inning for AL wild card-leading Tampa Bay.

Basabe is filling at shortstop for Wander Franco, who is on MLB's administrative list while authorities in the Dominican Republic investigate him for an alleged relationship with a minor.

Yandy Díaz went 3 for 5 in his career-best fifth straight multi-hit game, raising his AL-leading average to .328. Andrew Kittredge (1-0) worked a scoreless eighth to get his win since returning from Tommy John surgery this month.

PIRATES 6, CARDINALS 3

PITTSBURGH (AP)—Andrew McCutchen's two-run homer was the 299th of his career and capped a five-run fifth inning against struggling Adam Wainwright, and Pittsburgh sent St. Louis to its sixth loss in seven games.

Wainwright remained stuck on 198 career. He retired the side in order in the first three innings but was charged with six runs in 4 2/3 innings, giving up seven hits, striking out three and walking one.

Acquired from the Cardinals last season, Johan Oviedo (7-13) allowed one run and four hits in five innings with five strikeouts and one walk. David Bednar worked a scoreless ninth for his 27th save in 30 opportunities.

Richie Palacios led off the fifth inning with his first career home run for St. Louis.

BREWERS 7, TWINS 3

MILWAUKEE (AP)—Tyrone Taylor hit a go-ahead RBI single and highlighted a five-run sixth inning as Milwaukee beat Minnesota in an interleague matchup of division leaders.

Willy Adames of NL Central-leading Milwaukee and Christian Vázquez of AL Central-best Minnesota hit two-run homers.

The Brewers rallied against reliever Dylan Floro (4-6) after getting held in check by starter Bailey Ober, who left after throwing 78 pitches.

Ober retired the last eight men he faced before departing with a 3-2 lead at the end of five innings. Floro allowed hits to six of the first seven batters he faced, with five of them scoring.

Milwaukee's Bryse Wilson (5-0), Hoby Milner and Trevor Megill combined for four innings of shutout relief. Wilson struck out three and didn't allow a base runner in two innings.

ASTROS 7, RED SOX 3

HOUSTON (AP)—Kyle Tucker hit a two-run homer and Justin Verlander threw six scoreless innings to help Houston beat Boston.

Boston manager Alex Cora and right fielder Alex Verdugo were ejected for arguing balls and strikes as the Red Sox lost a second straight game at Houston.

Verlander (9-6) allowed five hits and struck out a season-high nine in his fourth start since returning to the Astros in a trade with the Mets.

Tanner Houck (3-7) allowed four hits and three runs in five innings in his first start since June 16.

Adam Duvall, who had a three-run shot Monday night, hit a solo homer in the eighth inning for the Red Sox, who have at least one home run in 11 straight games. Justin Turner drove in two runs for Boston with a single in the ninth.

MARLINS 3, PADRES 0

SAN DIEGO (AP)—Jesús Luzardo threw a two-hit shutout over six innings and Jorge Soler hit his 33rd homer of the season to lead Florida past San Diego in a matchup of National League wild-card hopefuls.

The Marlins (62-52) entered the game having lost five of their last six games and moved five games ahead of the Padres (60-67) in the race for a wild-card spot. The teams play the finale of the three-game series on Wednesday.

Luzardo (9-8) worked six innings, giving up no runs and two hits while striking out seven. Andrew Nardi, Tanner Scott and closer David Robertson each pitched an inning of scoreless relief. Robertson earned his 18th save.

ATHLETICS 5, ROYALS 4

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—Shea Langeliers homered for the second consecutive game, and Oakland spoiled the return of former Cy Young Award winner Zack Greinke in beating Kansas City.

Aledmys Díaz added three RBIs for the A's, and Brent Rooker had two hits a day after hitting his second game-ending home run of the season.

Greinke had been out for two weeks with a right elbow injury before being activated off the injured list prior to Tuesday's game. The 39-year-old looked sharp while throwing 53 pitches and allowing two hits in four scoreless innings. He had five strikeouts and allowed one runner past first base.

The last-place A's have won two straight against the Royals and four of five overall this season.

Hogan Harris (3-6) got the win despite an erratic outing in which he allowed four runs in 3 2/3 innings. Trevor May earned his 13th save.

Marianas Tourism Golf Classic features hole-in-one prize from Joeten Motors

The Marianas Tourism Education Council announces a 2023 Honda HRV Sport from Joeten Motors awaits one lucky hole-in-one winner at the 2023 Marianas Tourism Golf Classic to be held on Sept. 2, 2023, at LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort west course.

"Joeten Motors is always happy to support local non-profit organizations like MTEC and their efforts to improve the islands through educating the youth. We look forward to a great tournament this year. Good luck to all the golfers." said Joeten Motors general manager Matthew Deets.

Tournament proceeds will help fund the education work of the MTEC, a non-profit which focuses on community outreach, and school tourism MY WAVE (Marianas Youth Welcome All Visitors Enthusiastically) Clubs. MTEC marks its 22nd anniversary this year.

"We're very grateful to Joeten Motors for making tourism their business with sponsorship of a hole-in-one prize with their 2023 Honda HRV Sport vehicle," said MTEC chair Vicky Benavente. "We invite all golfers to come out and support the Marianas Tourism Golf Classic and make the most of their chance to win this great sports car!"

Other hole-in-one prizes are $5,000 cash from Island Training Solutions, $5,000 cash from Triple J Saipan Inc., and a $10,000 shopping spree from Top Shelf Wines & Spirits.

Registration is $120 until Aug. 25, 2023. After Aug. 25, registration increases to $140. Optional play is $30. Only 144 players will be registered. No refunds will be issued after Aug. 25. Registration—including payment—is being accepted at LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort (credit card or cash only) and the Marianas Visitors Authority (MVA) office (cash or check only) on Beach Road, Garapan, in the Gold Beach Hotel building. Checks should be made payable to Marianas Tourism Education Council. Registration forms and sponsorship details are now available on The Marianas Calendar at www.mymarianas.com.

The tournament format will be medal play. Flight categories are Championship (0-5), A Flight (6-10), B Flight (11-16), C Flight (17+), Ladies, Senior (ages 55-60), and Super Senior (ages 61 and above). Showtime on Sept. 2 is 6 a.m. with a shotgun start at 7 a.m. The awards luncheon will immediately follow the tournament.

For more information, contact Marianas Tourism Golf Classic Committee chair Martin Duenas at mduenas@mymarianas.com or committee member Jack Aranda at jaranda@mymarianas.com or call 1.670.664.3200/1. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Joeten Motors general manager Matthew Deets, far right, presents 2023 Honda HRV Sport on Aug. 11, 2023, at their showroom in Chalan Laulau, as a hole-in-one prize for the Marianas Tourism Golf Classic to be held on Sept. 2, 2023, at LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort. From left, Joeten Motors Sales manager Ray Alvarez, tournament committee vice chair Glenn Policare, Joeten Motors Operations manager Peter Tenorio, tournament committee member Franco Santos, Marianas Tourism Education Council Chairwoman Vicky Benavente, and Deets.

LOVING

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have previously won their games via big blowouts—they were in the fight of their lives in this game as they escaped with just a three-point lead.

Choju, after a disappointing first quarter, 6-13, came sprinting out of the gates in the second quarter. It was back-and-forth shots from both teams in that quarter, but the Saints still managed to outpace them by a few points, 39-32.

Choju's Jay Art Palmes' efforts went to waste as he tried to carry his team to victory with his 19 points, but CK Saints' triple threat of Eli Aughenbaugh, who scored 18, and Leo Galarse and Justice Aldan who scored 13 each, was enough to keep Choju away at arms length.

Aughenbaugh scored some crucial points in the last minutes of the game to steal the win away from Choju.

In the other game on Monday, Checkpoint won via a blowout 104-58 and in the other game on Tuesday, Solid North defeated the Winners Group, 65-62.

Last Saturday's game was between The Game-Eats Easy and Solid North, with The Game taking the win, 78-73.

As of Aug. 20, the team standings in open Division A are: Easy Riders 2-0; Lovings Hands 1-0; Sold North 1-1; Socho 1-1; Winners Group 1-1; The Game 1-1; Home Smart 0-1; and Priority Care 0-2.

In the Open Division B, Checkpoint is at 2-0; CK Saints 2-0; Vik Team 1-1; Bridge Capital 1-1; JTM Saipan 1-1; Choju 0-1; IT&E 01; and 670 Rollers 0-2.

In the Masters Division, Blue Haus leads with 2-0; JSN 1-0; A Plus Team 1-0; Vizion has yet to play; Legends Team 0-1; Win Pacific 0-1; Long Shot 0-1; and Lakay 0-1.

MONDAY

Loving Hands 60 – Ordona 13, Bernardo 12, Dancel 7, Tengco 6, Elchico 6, Bravo 4, Bahillo 4, J. Tabora 4, Lisua 2, Lumen 2.

Socho 40 – D. Faisao 10, Pangelinan 9, Babauta 6, Hocog 5, Q. Faisao 4, Guerrero 3, Limes 3.

Scoring by quarters: 12-9, 35-17, 45-29, 60-40.

TUESDAY

CK Saints 77 – Aughenbaugh 18, Galarse 13, Aldan 13, Palacios 8, Dom Blas 7, Thongaran 7, Reyes 4, Manibusan 3, E. Blas 2, Lizama 2.

Choju 74 – Palmes 19, H. Aguon 18, F. Satur 8, J. Aguon 7, Mamis 5, Marianas 4, LIzama 4, V. Satur 4, Dikito 3, Nekaifes 2.

Scoring by quarters: 13-6, 39-32, 59-49, 77-74.

ATTAO

From page 20

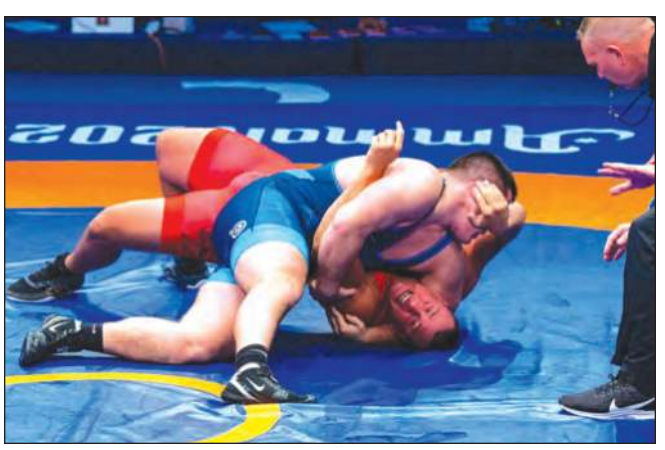
our team did pretty good for the cards we had dealt, especially since we all had gotten sick… but overall, I think our team did good."

In the 2023 wrestling season so far, Attao is at five wins and one loss.

Attao is already looking forward to the Elite 8 Duals on Sept. 16 and 17.

Other than that, he said he'll be training for his senior level tournaments this year, along with the next World Championships.

He is also training to make the cut for the U.S. Olympic wrestling team.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Aden Attao goes up against Hungarian Koppany Simon Laszlo during their Round of 16 bout in the 2023 U20 World Championships on Monday in Amman, Jordan

5th Annual ISLA Mafuti Derby this Saturday

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

The 5th Annual ISLA Mafuti Derby is set for this Saturday, Aug. 26, at the Smiling Cove Marina from 6am to 3pm.

The entrance fee for each captain plus an angler is $60.

About 45-55 boats are expected to make their way to the derby for a chance to win the top prizes.

A mandatory rules briefing will be held today, Thursday, Aug. 24, at the Minachom Atdao Pavilion at 5:30pm.

I Sanhalom Laguna Anglers Association president Keith Kintol welcomes everybody to the derby. He said, "as part of our mission to promote and educate safe fishing practices amongst our youth, each child ages 12 and below are free to join as an angler! The objective of the ISLA Mafuti Derby is to catch mafuti, lililok and matan hangan species."

Kintol added that the derby offers participants and the youth the opportunity to showcase their skills while enjoying a day of fishing I'Sanhalom Laguna (inside the lagoon).

"Some will come in victorious and some will come in with a good sun tan, but at the end of the day, all will come with a fishing story to tell. So, with that said… Good luck and fish on!" said Kintol.

Team RJ, captained by George Moses, topped the biggest catch category with a 5.2-lb mafuti in the 4th Annual ISLA Mafuti Derby that snapped the win streak of captain Edward Diaz, who settled for second place.

ISLA was established in 2018 by a group of anglers that treat fishing as a way of life. The Mafuti Derby is restricted to the waters inside the Saipan lagoon and participating boats can't exceed 17 feet in length.

PIC

From page 20

a long way in terms of allowing us to do that," he said.

Humanities Council chair Bobby Cruz said he appreciated that PIC and E-Land Group chose the non-profit, grants-making corporation as this year's recipient from the proceeds of one of their signature community events.

"We're really a humble organization that is in the business of telling stories and helping the community learn by sharing stories and sometimes sharing stories is a bit undervalued but we learn so much. So for PIC to see the power in investing in the council is something that we just cherish and so we hope to be able to use this money in ways that are honorable to promote diversity, equity, and inclusion. We're very grateful," he said.

On behalf of E-Land Group CEO Brian Shin, Corporate Social Responsibility manager Lindsey Ahn said their company always values what the Humanities Council has always done.

"We always believe that culture is the most important thing when it comes to the tourism industry. So as one of the stakeholders in the tourism industry, we always love what the Humanities Council has been doing like preserving and then maintaining the indigenous culture of the CNMI to give down to the future generation," she said, adding that more will be forthcoming as the E-Land Group also plans to give a portion of their tax credit to them.

PIC general manager Dennis Seo, for his part, said he's more than happy to donate $2,500 to the Humanities Council.

"It's our own little way of giving back to the local community. We're always honored to give back to the community and happy to give that donation to the Humanities Council," he said.

The 2023 Hafa Adai 5K, also sponsored by Kensington Hotel Saipan, Coral Ocean Resort, Bridge Capital LLC, Marpac, and All-Star Sporting Goods, started from the PIC Saipan parking lot up to the Aquarius Beach Tower Hotel and back.

The color run featured five stations where runners were doused with yellow, red, green, blue, and pink "holi powder" made from a biodegradable mixture of cornstarch and food coloring.

In hoops-crazed Philippines, World Cup will be shining moment.

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Marianas Tourism Golf Classic features hole-in-one prize from Joeten Motors.

PAGE 19

Loving Hands, CK Saints topple foes in Eagles caging

LEIGH GASES

Loving Hands' Jhun Tabora goes for a layup as Socho's Derek Olopoai tries to block him during their game Monday night in the Inaugural SMEC-SMLEC Invitational Basketball Tournament 2023 at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

It was all good and holy for Loving Hands and the CK Saints as they won their games in the open division of the Inaugural SMEC-SMLEC Invitational Basketball Tournament 2023 last Monday and Tuesday night at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

On Monday, Loving Hands, with their soft touch, outscored Socho by 20 points, 60-40, while on Tuesday, CK Saints floated just enough above Choju to win, 77-74.

Socho was overpowered from the get-go as they tried to make their baskets but to no avail. Each missed shot was a missed opportunity to gain on the widening lead of Loving Hands, who, by the end of the second quarter, was up by 18 points, 35-17.

Although Loving Hands had their mishandles and fumbles as well, their passing game and ability to stay open just long enough to make the shots was their strength. With that, Rafael Ordona had 13 markers, while Bryan Bernardo scored 12, and Aldrin Gio Dancel contributed seven.

On the other hand, Socho tried their best to stay afloat but could only do so much as they still missed their shots. In the end, Dom Faisao scored the most with 10, while Tim Pangelinan scored nine.

For the CK Saints—who

See LOVING on Page 19

Attao happy with performance in Worlds despite loss

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

CNMI son and wrestler Aden Attao is happy with his performance despite his loss in the 2023 U20 World Championships on Monday in Amman, Jordan.

Attao, the favorite to win the 130-kg weight class in the Greco-Roman portion, lost in the quarterfinals when he fell ill before his competition. With his loss in the quarterfinals, he placed seventh overall.

The 18-year-old member of the U.S. World Team first defeated Japan's Ayumu Iwasawa as Attao scored three clarification and technical points. Attao then beat Hungary's Koppany Laszlo with eight technical points and three clarification points.

However, in the quarterfinals, Attao lost to Greece's Achilleas Chrysidis with four technical points and one clarification point.

Despite not winning a gold medal as he had hoped, Attao said, "I am happy with my performance because even with dealing with sickness… I did the best I could and I am proud of how I did."

Attao said that the competition itself was good, but that it "sucked having such high expectations and goals and not reaching them but it is what is what it is. I put my best foot forward for what I was dealing with."

He said when he was sick, he didn't wrestle well because he wasn't able to recover enough and his cardio wasn't there, along with being fatigued. Even with that, he said "it's OK. I'll be back and better next year."

As for his team's performance, he said, "I think overall

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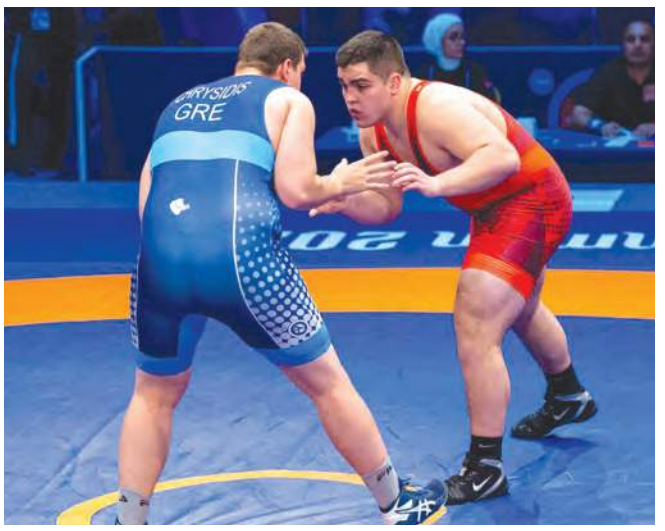

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Aden Attao in action against Greece's Achilleas Chrysidis in the 2023 U20 World Championships in Amman, Jordan.

PIC turns over $2,500 proceeds from Hafa Adai 5K to Humanities Council

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Pacific Islands Club Saipan turned over a $2,500 donation to the Northern Marianas Humanities Council last Friday at the San Antonio hotel's lobby.

The donation represents the proceeds from last July's Hafa Adai 5K that attracted over 600 participants.

Humanities Council executive director Leo Pangelinan thanked PIC Saipan and its parent company, E-Land Group, for the thoughtful donation.

"It's a significant donation and we really appreciate E-Land's contribution. It's gonna be spread out to support our many programs. We have quite a few programs that are in development and are ongoing. We have some legacy programs that will think about modifying a bit and scale it up and make some improvements. Donations like these go

See PIC on Page 19

PACIFIC ISLANDS CLUB
DATE 08/18/23
PAY TO THE ORDER OF Northern Marianas Humanities Council $ 2,500.00
TWOTHOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED
E·LAND GROUP

MARK RABAGO

E-Land Group CEO Brian Shin, center, is flanked by Northern Marianas Humanities Council executive director Leo Pangelinan, fifth from left, and board chair Bobby Cruz, fourth from right, during the turnover ceremony of the $2,500 check that were the proceeds from the 2023 Half Adai 5K.